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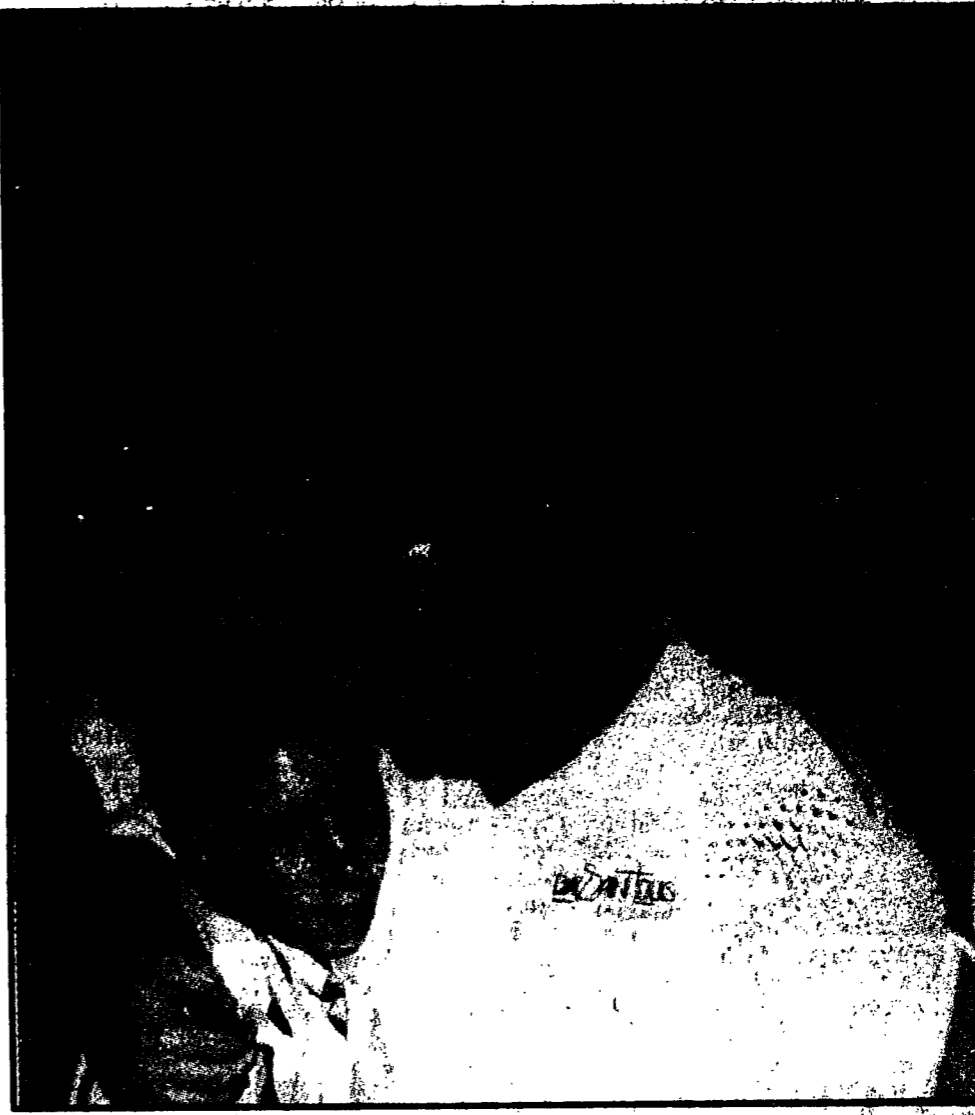
TWO SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

1997: Cheeseheads, election, taxes



Cheeseheads everywhere you look

Cheeseheads were widespread in the Kiln community in January as Favremania gripped the area. This youngster got into the spirit during a rally at Hancock High School. (Echo staff photo by Betsy Gagnet)



Four more years

Bay St. Louis Mayor Eddie Favre gives his son a hug after winning his third term in May. The council also has two women members for the first time in history. (Echo staff photo by Richard Meek)

County copes with tax increases, deaths

BY RICHARD MEEK

Death and taxes, it is often said, are life's only certainties.

Both no doubt left their imprints in Hancock County in 1997.

The county said goodbye to two former supervisors on the same day, and was stunned as three murder-suicides were reported.

By year's end, taxes were being discussed from barrooms to boardrooms. Reappraisal,

the first since 1984, and millage increases because of several bond issues, doubled, tripled or sometimes quadrupled some tax bills.

On one November day, the county lost former supervisors Adolph "Dolph" Kellar and Mike Ladner. Death also claimed the lives of county friends Frank "Cat" Trapani, Waveland artist Carl Baldenhofer, Victor Labat, former Civil Defense Director Lucien

Kidd, former Sea Coast Echo cooking columnist Katy McGuire Caire, and 99-year-old Deacon Cordosia Richardson.

The Kiln community was shocked in November when the bodies of Marshall and Studie Hough were discovered in their Old Joe Moran Road home. An investigation determined that Marshall Hough first killed his wife, then turned the gun on himself.

It was the third murder-sui-

cide of the year. The first, and perhaps the most shocking, came in April when the bodies of Kieu Mythi, 17, and Glen Pearce, 21, were discovered in a Slidell motel room. Pearce, a former St. Stanislaus student, killed himself after killing Mythi.

A love triangle was the motive behind an October murder-suicide. Two men in their 70s, who were both apparently having a relationship with a

46-year-old woman, were left dead.

During a one week stretch, three suicides were reported.

One of the county's most high-profile murder in years left residents anxious for two days. In March, the mutilated body of Ruth Tuller was discovered in her home and an intense manhunt for Frita Garcia was begun immediately. Garcia

COUNTY—PAGE 10A

County supervisors survive trying year

BY ED LEPOMA

Major improvements planned by Hancock County supervisors are still on hold, but chances are good most projects will get underway early in the new year.

The year just passed was a trying one for supervisors look-

ing for revenues to maintain basic county services, but also under a state-ordered mandate to construct a Juvenile Detention Center. Supervisors also sought to extend sewerage in the Shoreline Park area, and to parts of the low-lying Clermont Harbor and Lakeshore areas

and to improve county roads.

In early 1997, supervisors decided they would issue up to \$6.2 million in general obligation bonds, mainly to blacktop and upgrade roads in Hancock County and to build the juvenile facility. The decision to do so was challenged by a citizens

group, which did not obtain enough qualified voters on a petition that would have forced a referendum on the bond issue.

Supervisors contended revenues from reappraisal of property taxes would be sufficient to cover the new bonded in-

debtedness without raising millage, but two school bond issues combined to give most property owners a jolt near the end of the year.

They stormed the courthouse to complain their taxes had

SUPERS—PAGE 6A

Waveland revitalized; infrastructure improved

BY BETSY GAGNET

In Waveland, 1997 brought infrastructure improvements and signs of revitalization.

Using money from the \$1.25 million bond issue, the city completed a \$350,000 drainage project in Shoreline Park, and several streets are in line to be paved.

In the Public Works Department, headed by Steve Landry, the purchases of a track hoe, sewerage jet and trench boxes have enabled the city to keep on top of drainage and sewer repair and maintenance. The new equipment will enable the city to continue saving money by doing work in-house, which otherwise would have to be contracted out.

The city's newest fire truck was paid off with the bond money as originally contem-

plated by the Board, at a savings of \$33,000 according to city officials.

A drainage project through a Soil and Water Conservation Service grant was completed at Nicholson and Central avenues and Central Avenue near Pine Ridge. The drainage work will help alleviate the accumulation of water on the north side of the railroad tracks.

The ground work needed to begin the Nicholson Avenue and St. Joseph Street drainage project was completed.

Improvements have their price tag, however, and after much discussion the Board approved a 6.875 millage increase. Five mills are dedicated to retiring the bond debt with the remainder allocated between the general, recreation and library funds.

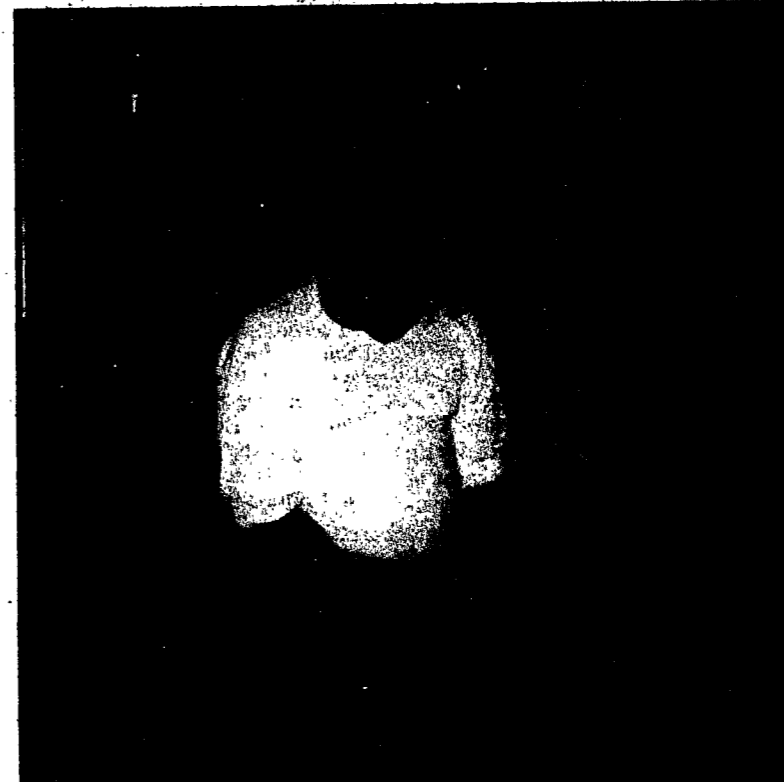
After a strenuous series of budget meetings, most city employees saw a pay increase of \$700. Also affecting city employees is a citywide drug testing policy which went into effect in 1997.

Signs of revitalization began appearing in 1997 with several new tenants on Coleman Avenue. Ken's Barber-shop is back and Gulf Coast Mental Health is new on the block. A new restaurant is expected to open soon.

City Hall got a facelift with a new mural depicting life in Waveland. The mural was a community art project under the direction of Bay St. Louis artist Elizabeth Veglia.

The burned out Asalea Bed and Breakfast was finally torn

WAVELAND—PAGE 10A



Garcia captured

Frita Garcia was arrested in Pascagoula following an intense manhunt in March. Garcia was wanted in connection with the brutal murder of Ruth Tuller. He is currently awaiting trial. (Echo staff photo by Richard Meek)

Obituary

GERALDINE W. ANDREWS
PAUL M. BREWER
LAVELLE CUMMINS
LILLIAN HABER
EDWARD V. LEHTO
MELANIE B. LYNN

GERALDINE W. ANDREWS
 Geraldine W. Andrews, 56, of Gulfport, died Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1997, in Gulfport.

Mrs. Andrews was born in McComb and had been a resident of the Coast for 50 years. She was a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and attended Ramsay United Methodist Church. She retired in May as associate director of human services for Harrison County after 32 years of service.

Survivors include her husband, James T. Andrews of Gulfport; her parents, Charles W. and Doris Blackwell of Saucier; a stepdaughter, Penny Newberry of Arizona; two stepsons, James T. Andrews and Greg Andrews, both of Ocean Springs; a halfsister, Nancy Johnson of Baton Rouge; a brother, Paul Wallace of Saucier; two stepbrothers, Leslie Wallace and Alvin Wallace, both of Baton Rouge; and a stepgrandchild.

Visitation was Friday evening at Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Home in Gulfport. Services were conducted Saturday in the funeral home chapel. Burial was in Floral Hills Memorial Gardens in Gulfport.

PAUL M. BREWER

Paul M. Brewer, 43, of Gulfport, died Wednesday, Dec. 24, 1997, in Gulfport.

Mr. Brewer was a native and lifelong resident of Gulfport. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Orange Grove and served in the Marine Corps. He

was a self-employed concrete finisher and operated a lawn care and small engine repair business.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Earl Brewer.

Survivors include his mother and stepfather, Mildred Lucille and Clyde Adams of Gulfport; a stepson, Cliff Johnson of Memphis; a stepdaughter, Beth Johnston of Saucier; seven brothers, L. C. Brewer and Robert Brewer, both of Pass Christian; Aubrey Brewer, Dwight Brewer, Ronnie Brewer, Ray Brewer and Carl Adams, all of Gulfport; a sister, Elizabeth Adams-Hoskins of Gulfport; and two stepgrandchildren.

Visitation was Friday evening at Riemann Memorial Funeral Home in Gulfport. Services were conducted Saturday at the funeral home chapel. Burial was in Finley Cemetery.

LAVELLE CUMMINS

Lavelle "Val" Cummins, 74, died Wednesday, Dec. 24, 1997, in Biloxi.

Mrs. Cummins was a native of New Haven, Mo., and had been a resident of Biloxi since 1981. She was a Catholic.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Malcomb Cummins.

Survivors include four sisters, Ora Mae Holt of Theodore, Ala., Lorena Wacker of Palestine, Texas, Stella Trippe of St. Louis, and Dolores Lecanu of Kiln; and four brothers, Milton Zeitzmann of Port Hueneme, Calif., Merlin Zeitzmann and Harvey Zeitzmann, both of Washington, Mo., and Robert Zeitzmann of Kingwood, Texas.

Visitation will be from 2 to 3 p.m. today at Howard Avenue Chapel of Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Home in Biloxi. Mrs.

Cummins will be sent to Gottenstroeter Funeral Home in Owensville, Mo., for services and burial.

FLINT C. GULLETT

Flint Cabot Gullett, 88, died Thursday, Dec. 18, 1997, in Bay St. Louis.

Mr. Gullett was a native of Palma Sola, Fla., and served in the Merchant Marines during World War II.

He was preceded in death by his parents, B.D. and Daisy Bishop Gullett.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Hatfield Gullett of Waveland; and three sisters, Jane Gullett Rothfuss of Orlando, Fla., Martha Gullett Piana of Long Island, N.Y., and Sallie Gullett Bradley of Bradenton, Fla.

A service was held Saturday at Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis. Burial was private.

EDWARD V. LEHTO

Edward V. Lehto, 51, died Thursday, Dec. 25, 1997, in Gulfport.

Mr. Lehto was born in Michigan and served in the Marine Corps. He was a retired carpet installer and was a member of Sharon Baptist Church in Long Beach.

Survivors include his fiancée, Betty Wilson of Gulfport; his mother, Ada Rudolph of Marquette, Mich.; five sons, Neil Lehto of Harrington, Del., Wesley Lehto of Tucson, James "Jim" Cospelich and Andrew "Chris" Cospelich, both of Long Beach, and Denver "Bubby" Wilson of Gulfport; two daughters, Dawn Ruttan of Camp Verde Ariz., and Angelia Dubuison of Long Beach; two brothers, Pete Shelafoe and Wally Lehto, both of Marquette; five sisters, Annette Kazmerick of Detroit, Gloria Loucks of Skandia, Mich., Fran Minor of Simms, Texas, Linda Hannicutt of Bay St. Louis, and Lila Trephenier of Houston, and 11 grandchildren.

Private services will be held at a later date. Riemann Memorial Funeral Home, U.S. 49 North, Gulfport, is in charge of arrangements.

MELANIE B. LYNN

Mrs. Melanie Bermann Lynn, 81, of Bay St. Louis, died Friday, Dec. 26, 1997, in Bay St. Louis.

Mrs. Lynn was a native of New Orleans and was affiliated with the American Legion Post #77 in Waveland and the Post Ladies Auxiliary.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James J. Lynn; her parents, Edward W. Bearmann Sr. and Esther Hymann Bearmann; two brothers, Edward W. Bearmann Jr. and Albert I. Bearmann; and a sister, Carrie Bearmann Flad.

Survivors include two daughters, Patricia Lynn Lepine of Bay St. Louis, and Peggy Bearmann Brice of New Orleans; a brother, Henry J. Bearmann of Clearmont Harbor; a sister, Rachel Bearmann Belott of Kenner, La.; and two grandchildren.

A service was held Saturday at Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis. Burial was at Greenwood Cemetery in New Orleans.

Private services will be held at a later date. Riemann Memorial Funeral Home, U.S. 49 North, Gulfport, is in charge of arrangements.

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Test Drive program continues

Pamela Asburn of Long Beach needed just a little push to get her started back in school.

When she found out about the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Test-Drive-a-Degree Program, she got just the push she needed.

"I liked the idea that it offered a free course — that relieved some of the financial stress associated with going back to school," said Asburn.

"Test Drive is great for someone who has been out of school and needs an extra incentive to return to college."

USMGC's Test-Drive-a-Degree Program — begun during the summer semester of 1996 — has attracted almost 200 individuals to USMGC to return to school and seek a degree. The program offers a free course to students who have a minimum number of college credit hours, a "C" average overall and have not enrolled in a college course in the past three years.

"Taking a Test-Drive course helps a lot of students see what kind of time and other commitments they will need to return to school," said Shelia White, academic and public relations specialist at USMGC. "It also brings back the reality of research and homework. We felt like if we could ease that process a little by waiving the tuition for the first course they take, it might make it possible for more to take that first step and get back in school."

John Spillman of Long Beach took a Test Drive and is already enrolled for the spring 1998 semester.

"I had the desire to go back and finish my degree," Spillman said.

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Alcohol, holidays do not mix well

Mississippians will have many opportunities to celebrate during the holidays, but take extreme caution when alcohol is served.

Nutrition guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture do not recommend the consumption of alcohol. For those who intend to drink anyway, USDA recommends only moderate drinking.

Dr. Barbara McLaurin, extension human nutrition specialist at Mississippi State University, said USDA's definition of moderate drinking is different for men and women.

"Drinking in moderation for women is having no more than one drink daily," McLaurin said. "For men, the definition is no more than two drinks a day."

One drink is either 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine, 1.5 ounces of rum, gin or whiskey or one mixed drink.

McLaurin cautioned against drinking on an empty stomach. An empty stomach intensifies the effects of alcohol on the body. Foods high in protein, such as meats and cheeses can be helpful in lessening alcohol's effects.

"Drinking on an empty stomach allows alcohol to effect the body much faster," McLaurin said. "Alcohol can work as a appetite suppressant, so for nutritional reasons, it becomes more important to eat before or while drinking."

Because alcohol is high in calories and low in nutritional value, the specialist said it can be fattening. It can even be dangerous to a person's nutrition when consumed in great amounts. People who substitute alcohol for food are putting their nutritional health in jeopardy.

McLaurin said there are several groups of people who should not drink any amount of alcohol. Women who are pre-

gnant or trying to conceive should avoid drinking. The medicine may react in a negative way with the alcohol.

Those who cannot drink in moderation or have to drive should not drink. Children and adolescents should never drink alcohol.

McLaurin urged party-goers who do not want to drink to look for non-alcoholic alternatives. She recommended mixed drinks without alcohol, fruit juice, soft drinks or water.

The specialist offered advice to party hosts to help ensure the safety of guests. Offer non-alcoholic beverages throughout the party, and offer only non-alcoholic beverages near the end. This will help make sure your guests get home safely.

Watch for guests who cannot drink in moderation and be prepared to get them home if necessary. Keep lots of food and snacks on hand to keep guests from drinking on an empty stomach.

"It cannot be stressed enough how important it is to avoid drinking on an empty stomach," McLaurin said. "Everyone should be aware that drinking and driving is extremely dangerous."

Adult Literary Education

The Hancock County Library System sponsors an Adult Literary Education Program at the Waveland Library Literacy Center, 333 Coleman Avenue, Waveland.

Classes provided include GED, basic skills, reading one-on-one, reading classes and more.

Day classes are Monday through Thursday. Evening classes are Mondays and Thursdays.

To register or for information, call Donna Hutchings at 467-9240.

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Wellman continues to progress; construction on schedule, budget

BY ED LEPOMA

Wellman's Pearl River plastics/fiber plant is coming out of the ground at the Port Bienville Industrial Plant, and Hancock County's economy is feeling the effects.

Project manager C.O. "Pete" Woody reports construction is on schedule and on budget for opening the first unit on Oct. 1, 1998.

Woody says construction has already pumped more than \$35 million into the local economy, and there are 1,100 construction workers now on site.

"Engineering is about 94 percent complete and construction about one-third complete," said

Woody.

Of the 1,100 workers on site, approximately 800 are employed by Flour Daniels, the prime contractor, said Woody, and the others are employed by subcontractors.

Woody said it is evident that Mississippi workers are primary beneficiaries of the work underway.

"We're keeping track, and estimates are that 50 percent of the work force hired by Flour Daniels are from Mississippi," said Woody, and among subcontractors, they're even more Mississippians being hired," said Woody. He said 11 percent of the work force are residents from Louisiana and 39 percent

are from other states.

"And about 50 Wellman employees are now on site, representing some who have transferred from other operations, and some who have been hired locally," said Woody.

The project director said Wellman has "made offers" to the first group of 16, who will be employed as hourly plant operators when the plastics division comes on line next year. They will start training in January, and Woody said a new batch of trainees will be hired each month until a work force of 187 operator are hired.

Clerical, supervisory and management positions will bring total employment at the

plant to at least 260 in its initial phase.

Applications are now being taken at the Mississippi Employment Commission offices on Longfellow Drive, and Woody said interested potential employees are urged to apply.

The offices are located at 3060 Longfellow Drive and open Monday through Friday.

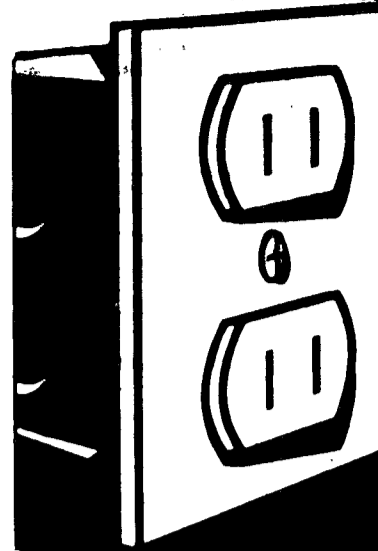
The \$330 million first-phase construction was the largest construction project announced in Mississippi in recent years, and Woody said employment is expected to peak between 1,300 and 1,400 early this year.

Wellman's Pearl River plant is the cornerstone of the company's expansion in the United States, and will primarily produce polyethylene terephthalate resin (PET), which is primarily used for soft drink bottles. Phase One, with production capacity of 470 million pounds, will begin operations in October, 1998, followed by a second unit coming on line in January of 1999.

Wellman will also produce polyester fibers under the consumer-recognized Fortrel label, and that unit is scheduled to come on line in April, 1999.

Ultimately, the plant is expected to expand its investment in Hancock County to over \$1 billion, and it is anticipated the plant will have the capacity to produce 2 billion pounds of product annually.

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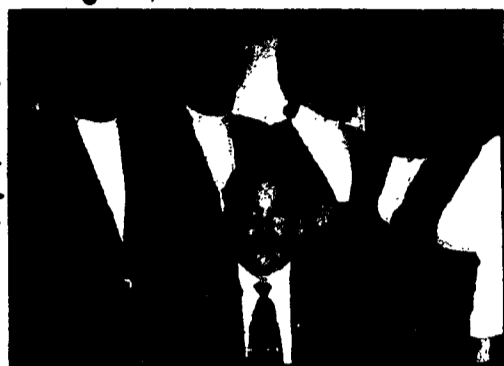


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Wellman continues to grow

Pete Woody of Wellman oversees construction of the plant at Port Bienville Industrial Park. Over 1,100 workers are on site, and already over \$35 million has been pumped into the local economy. The plant is scheduled to open in the fall of 1998. (Echo staff photo by Richard Meek)

Children, El Nino, economy grabbed national headlines

Associated Press

The McCaughey septuplets, Louise Woodward, JonBenet Ramsey. Even the two young sons Princess Diana left behind.

All were at the center of debates about children—how we raise, care for, even conceive them—that ignited again and again in 1997. Over the past 12 months, the nation sometimes seemed like a big, querulous neighborhood, where everybody else's kids were everybody's business.

Americans from President Clinton on down sent good wishes to Bobbi and Kenny McCaughey when the Iowa couple's family grew by seven. Gifts ranged from diapers to college tuition.

But medical ethicists saw abuse of fertility drugs and criticized "litters of babies." Naysaying also mixed with the cheers greeting the announcement of the oldest known new mother—a 63-year-old who used hormone therapy.

The year-long investigation of 6-year-old JonBenet's murder left plenty of time for talk-show second-guessing about the case—and about her world of child beauty contests. "Are there mothers that are nuts? Absolutely," acknowledged one pageant organizer.

A transatlantic shouting match broke out when Woodward, an English au pair, was convicted in the death of a tot from a wealthy Boston-area family. Some Britons accused the physician-parents of neglect. In reply, a family friend urged critics to "take a cold look" at how they raise their own kids.

Even the most privileged children in the world seemed vulnerable. Throngs wept for two princes, bravely walking behind the cortege of their mother, Diana, adorned with a card marked "Mummy."

Tabloid editors, vilified for hounding the princess,

promised to spare her sons, at least for now. Ordinary mourners embraced the boys like family. "I only hope that William and Harry have a good life and aren't too sheltered," said Sheila Munro-Moss of Seattle at one memorial event.

If Diana's passing provided a tragic crescendo, here and abroad, the passing year also had its background music:

The U.S. economy stayed buoyant, with unemployment down and stocks up. Washington kept busy tracking campaign funds and tallying sleepovers in the Lincoln bedroom. Tobacco companies coughed up \$368 billion to settle smoking suits.

The world paused delightfully to watch, live from Mars, a little robot rolling in the red dirt. And paused grimly to hear Timothy McVeigh sentenced to death for the Oklahoma City bombing.

Americans watched Tiger Woods' mastery, Ellen DeGeneres' coming out, Newt Gingrich's survival in a coup attempt. And witnessed Mike Tyson bite an ear, cosmonauts right the Mir, dimstore shoppers fight a tear.

In July, Woolworth's announced it would close its 400 remaining five-and-dime stores nationwide, outflanked by big discounters and abandoned by shoppers preferring suburban malls. For 118 years, the stores sold everything from pet turtles to grilled cheese sandwiches.

"Every week I hear from someone who said they grew up in this place and their grandma brought them here," said Ohio store manager Byron Rider. "It's home to many."

Other eras ended in 1997 with deaths of Jimmy Stewart, "the last of the great leading men," of James Michener, as "America's storyteller," of Red Skelton, the clown with the trademark "God bless," and Beavis and Butt-Head, MTV's cartoon delinquents with the trademark "heh heh" snickers.

In 1997, in search of private answers, Americans took many public paths.

Hoping to shed their "earthly containers" and meet a passing comet, 39 members of a group known as Heaven's Gate consumed a fatal combination of alcohol and phenobarbital, draped themselves with purple shrouds in their mansion near San Diego, and died.

Black women braved chilly rain for a Million Woman March in Philadelphia, a call for solidarity and progress on human rights. Christian men filled the mall in Washington, hugging, praying and reminding each other they were now Promise Keepers.

Promising what? "Responsibility," said the group's founder, Bill McCartney. "The reason we see a downward spiral in morality in this nation is because the men of God have not stood together."

Billionaires need to stand together, too, Ted Turner said.

The media tycoon announced a \$1 billion donation to the United Nations and challenged others to do more. He singled out Microsoft's Bill Gates, who headed Forbes magazine's 400 richest list again in 1997 with an estimated income of \$400 million—a week.

The year's natural disasters included Arkansas tornadoes that killed 25 and brought President Clinton back to locales of his boyhood that had been laid waste.

In the upper Midwest, residents fought the rising Red River and lost, over and over. After a flood touched off an inferno that burned the heart of Grand Forks, N.D., the undaunted local newspaper, the Herald, set up a makeshift office and published anyway. Its headline: "Come hell and high water."

Was El Nino to blame? That question started being asked after climatologists noted that the Pacific warming phenomenon was big this year.

Ring in the New Year at Casino Magic!

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"CUEVAS" QUOTES

By Ellis C. Cuevas

A bird count will be taken in Hancock County on Monday, Dec. 29.

The count is being taken to document the well being of the avian life in the area.

The species to be targeted are hummingbirds, red-headed woodpeckers, red-breasted nuthatches, American Goldfinches and pine siskins.

Too bad they will not be counting pigeons. It appears there is a large population in Bay St. Louis.

True, many of the birds blend within the community, but as our population grows, the birds and wild animals which like the country are finding the space shrinking each year.

Anyway, if you are interested in participating in the bird count on Monday, give one of the following telephone numbers a ring for further information, 467-3810, 897-2473 or 896-3513.

It will be interesting how the avian life count compares with the last one taken.

During the next few days, New Year will be celebrated, and this will mean many folks will be using fireworks.

Each year thousands of fireworks injuries are recorded in this county of which many are youngsters.

If you or your children handle fireworks, please be very cautious. Accidents do happen with fireworks, and parents who give their children fireworks need to make sure they know how to properly use them. This also probably means they need to be with them when they are shooting them.

As youngsters, my brothers and I popped our share of fireworks. Many were more dangerous than the ones you can now purchase. To think about it now, we were very lucky that we did not get hurt.

As one grows older there are things one does not do anymore that were thrills when younger.

I now know why a few of those "old folks" in the neighborhood did not like our use of fireworks.

I am hoping that each and every one of you will have a safe and happy holiday.

Technicalities

By State Auditor Phil Bryant

COUNTIES

Q Is the chancery clerk, as clerk of the board of supervisors, required to actually take, prepare and present minutes of meetings to the board for approval or required only to keep and preserve a complete record of all proceedings of the board?

A The chancery clerk is required to keep and preserve the minutes and to create or make the minutes by entering on them all actions taken by the board. (Attorney General's opinion to Sherard dated Oct. 10, 1997)

Q May circuit court clerks receive extra compensation for sending notices of docket settings and notices of trial settings to litigants?

A No. Only the \$75 fee authorized under Mississippi Code Section 25-7-13 may be

charged. (Attorney General's opinion to Loper dated Oct. 17, 1997)

When the circuit clerk, in criminal matters, is required by statute, rule or order, to furnish after final disposition certified copies of indictments, judgments and commitments, may the clerk charge the county, in indigent matters, the costs thereof?

A Yes. (Attorney General's opinion to Loper dated Oct. 17, 1997)

Q Is there a statute that prohibits a person from holding the office of constable while working as a full time deputy sheriff?

A Yes. Mississippi Code Section 25-4-105 prohibits a constable from being employed by the sheriff's department. (Attorney General's opinion to Farmer dated Oct. 24, 1997)

Hancock School Bond Committee explains reasons for school's location next to Stennis

Dear Editor:

As concerned parents and members of the Hancock County School Bond Campaign Committee, we feel that everyone needs to be better educated about the situation concerning the property next to Hancock High School, which is currently in dispute.

The Port and Harbor Authority is now insisting that this property is necessary for the county's industrial advancement, while parents and other citizens who voted for the School Bond Issue feel the county needs it for a new middle school to house its sixth-eighth graders.

We think that there are certain aspects of this argument which need to be discussed so that everyone has the same information:

1. For the past eight years since the high school was built, no individual or group has tried to purchase this land. Only after voters passed the Hancock County School Bond Issue did this dispute over the superior rights to the property surface.

If the supervisors and the P&H felt so strongly about it, why didn't they try to acquire it before now?

2. Only one or two members of the Port and Harbor Authority actually live in the Hancock County school district. The others live in Bay St. Louis or Waveland. Perhaps this is the reason they don't realize the critical nature of our school situation. We hope this letter will be helpful.

3. There has been a suggestion that the school board locate the middle school elsewhere so that everyone will be happy.

The school board chose that site strictly because of the money saved the taxpayers by locating the middle school adjacent to the high school. Middle school students will have easy access to the Tech Prep facility, the gymnasium and all ball fields. It has been estimated that to duplicate these facilities elsewhere would cost the taxpayers an additional \$3 million.

These figures have been documented by the school board, and the bond issue amount was set accordingly. An effort to find an alternative site would cost the school district months of valuable time and would make an uncomfortable situation for our school children an intolerable one.

4. The transportation cost of busing students from an alternate site in order to utilize the aforementioned facilities would

mostly be an intangible one and totally impractical.

Bus drivers earn a very small income plus some benefits in exchange for limited working hours. The labor pool this job appeals to is already incredibly small; adding additional responsibilities to the job would not attract more drivers but would have the opposite effect.

Another concern with this idea is the disruption it would cause both for the children themselves and for now smooth-running class schedules. Allotting time for loading, transporting and unloading students would further complicate an already difficult scheduling problem due to the 1,600-plus enrollment that currently exists at the junior-senior high school.

5. Hancock County is losing thousands of dollars worth of tax revenue each year to other counties due to the overcrowded state of our schools located in rapid-growth areas.

As parents we know full well that schools are a top priority. Many families have chosen to locate elsewhere as a result of our current situation.

We must all assess which is more important to the immediate future of Hancock County—a school we desperately need or the "maybe, some day in the future" industrial plant that might, maybe, want to access the airport.

We are all for economic expansion at its right time and place, and we are all in favor of good education.

In our opinion, at a time when more taxes is a sore subject, the time and place for the middle school (established from the beginning of the bond issue campaign in all its published informational advertising) is as soon as possible at the designated site adjacent to the high school.

We urge everyone on the P&H, the Board of Supervisors and all concerned citizens to join in this extremely important project. The kids are depending on us to do the responsible thing!

Sincerely

The Hancock County School Bond Committee
Julie Easter (Committee Chair)
Diamondhead
Marcia Freeman
Kiln

Anne Morris
Diamondhead
Chris Veach
Diamondhead
Roberta Lottes
Diamondhead

Economics professor says taxes collected are forever gone

To the Editor:

Re: "Property owners grapple with taxes," by Betsy Gagnet, Sunday, Dec. 7

The statement attributed to Mr. Lee Bennett that "it is the reappraisals, not the increase in tax rates, which played the most significant role in increasing taxes" is in principle wrong.

Whether appraisals are made at true market value or some uniform percentage thereof makes little difference if millages are not set in accordance with what taxpayers are willing and able to pay.

In this regard, all that need be said is that millages apply to assessed values, not appraised values (it is important to consider why this is so).

What is of consequence in principle is that appraisals are equalized, to use the jargon of the trade (I could write a treatise on this).

In this regard, Mr. Bennett seems to have done a very good job, as far as I have been able to ascertain.

But the statement attributed to the most highly esteemed county official that I know, Mr. Murtagh, that the taxing entities "will not be able to reap a bonanza by reappraisals" (actually, by not appropriately adjusting millages (see below) is wrong both in principle and empirically.

The taxes, once collected are forever gone unless millages are changed retroactively and refunds given, whether or not ev-

erything over 10 percent of the additional taxes collected is escrowed (and what happens then if it is?)

As most of those who attended the Board of Supervisors' meeting on Dec. 15, 1997, seemed to understand, the tax-setting entities had the duty to adjust the millages so as not to increase revenues excessively as per taxpayers willingness and ability to pay—rule of thumb: a maximum of 10 percent (?)

At the meeting, the board seemed to avoid, if not evade addressing the question of whether or not the matter of the correct millage was weighed in its deliberations. For example, when a (relevant) question about budgetary procedure was asked, Mr. G. Ger's response to it was, in effect, that if the board had any money left over, it would reduce the millage next year.

Not to appropriately adjust millages during the budgetary process suggests either a lack of understanding of the function of the tax-setting entities or, worse, an avoidance of the responsibility of these agencies in their budgetary processes.

Sincerely,
Coldwell Daniel, III
Ph.D. (Economics, U.Va.)
Professor of Economics,
1958-present
Ex Member, Shelby County Board of Equalization
Hancock County Property Taxpayer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader says taxes go up, but never come down

Dear Editor:

It looks like 1997 will go down in the Hancock County history book as the year our elected officials taxed to max the home owners of this county!

Our elected officials apparently have no cap on what an individual home owner can be taxed in one year. It's a given, taxes never go down.

Maybe many of you with mortgages haven't been notified yet of this tax increase. Notice of your tax increase was sent directly to your mortgage holder rather than to you.

Just wait for this bit of news to come down the pike! You can go to the tax office and get a free print-out, and I suggest that you do this right away. No home owner has been spared.

Much ado has been said that Hancock County has the lowest

tax rate on the Coast.

Please remember, Hancock County does not have a large employment base as compared to those other counties.

For years, Hancock County has wooed retirees as being the best place to live—"A Place Apart."

It seems to me that your elected officials do not remember that retirement incomes do not increase by very much per year, and because of this enormous tax increase many of you will be forced to sell your properties.

A happy holiday is not in Hancock County home owners' stockings this year, nor can they hope for a better new year.

To have to sell our property will sadden us greatly!

Betty Eaves
Waveland

IN CONGRESS

By Rep. Gene Taylor

China's Most Favored Nation status not in best interest of Americans

The Peoples Republic of China has grossly abused human rights, forced abortions and persecuted people because of their religious beliefs. They have sold nuclear material to Iran and ship-killing missiles to Iraq. Many Americans, including me, believe that they have attempted to influence our

China's troops fought against America during the Korean War, and Chinese-made weapons were used against American soldiers in Vietnam. They continue to increase their military spending.

Chinese shipping companies now control ports on both ends of the Panama Canal. And most recently, the Chinese Ocean Shipping Company was caught smuggling the equivalent of two truckloads of weapons into our country.

Their track record speaks for itself. Why then does our nation continue to grant Most Favored Nation Status to the Communist People's Republic of China?

Some of my colleagues would like to blame it on the Administration, after all much has been made of the attempts by Johnny Wong and others to gain influence in this country through huge contributions to the Presidential campaign. I'm convinced that the problem goes much deeper than that. And, I'm convinced that it's time for the American Congress to do something about it.

In October, on two separate occasions, I demanded a vote on the House floor on a measure that would force our Secretary of the Treasury to adjust tariffs on goods coming from China to the same level that the Chinese government charges American goods when they enter their country.

China currently enjoys a \$50 billion-a-year trade surplus with our country. Because of their Most Favored Nation sta-

tus, China's goods either enter our country duty free or are charged a 2 percent tariff.

In contrast, on those occasions when American goods are allowed to be sold in China, they are taxed at a rate somewhere between 30-40 percent by the Chinese government. In many instances the Chinese goods that enter our country are manufactured by slave labor or political prisoners. In other instances they are manufactured by the Communist people's army.

The \$50 billion a year trade profits enjoyed by the Chinese are being used to modernize their military, enhance their long-range missile capability and fund their military operations expansion around the world. It makes no sense at all for our country to tolerate this behavior from a potential foe.

You can imagine my surprise when on both occasions that I tried to force a vote on trade fairness between America and the Chinese that Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich rules against letting House members decide this issue for themselves.

Speaker Gingrich ruled against letting members of Congress vote on this issue that affects our national sovereignty and defense.

Nearly every Democratic member, 202, voted against the Speaker's decision. Unfortunately, 217, including almost every Republican member, voted for the speaker and against our nation's best interest.

The American people deserve to know why. I think that the American people deserve an explanation from Speaker Gingrich. I think the American people deserve an up or down vote by the American Congress as to whether or not we will seek trade fairness for the American worker and protection for America's shores.

Letters Welcome

The Sea Coast Echo welcomes comments from its readers on subjects of general interest. Letters must be signed and include address or phone number so that the sender can be contacted by the newspaper if necessary. Letters should be brief, preferably typewritten and double spaced, and conform to standards of good taste. Only one letter per writer per month will be published. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject letters.

Letters of thanks, expressions of appreciation and political endorsements are considered inappropriate for the Letters to the Editor columns.

—Ellis C. Cuevas, publisher

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REFLECTIONS ON LIFE

By Father Jerome LeDoux, SVD

"Minutes after sunset, six planets will be visible in the southwest sky: Mercury, just above the horizon; Venus, left of the moon; Mars, below the point between them; Jupiter, to their upper left; Saturn, in the southeast.

"Of course, look down and you see our earth. With the aid of a telescope, you can also see Neptune, Uranus and Pluto."

Disappointingly, radio had waited until Tuesday, Dec. 2 to make this announcement, following the weather forecast of increasing cloudiness and encroaching rain. By the time the rain has passed, the moon will be in another position.

Oh well, maybe we will still be able to spot the planets, which will also be shifting gradually to new positions. However, my gripe is, why weren't we informed about a spectacular event in the heavens which will not recur for 100 years?

This 100-year alignment of planets was not written about. Instead, we are still being pumped full of the impending millennium, dragging doom, gloom and who knows what hydrogen boom in its train. The millennium is portrayed as forbidding.

I know I am not alone in feeling cheated of observing from its inception a most exciting astronomical event for whose revisit my chances of being here are slim, mostly none.

It is strongly reminiscent of the aurora australis, or "southern lights," the extremely rarely occurring equivalent of the "northern lights," or aurora borealis, occurring nine years

ago on the Gulf Coast without a media wimper.

Ignorantly, I saw some of the fiery show, but dismissed the glow as a brush/woods fire which had got out of hand. My disappointment when the news broke was way out of bounds.

Taking our cue from the Bible Christmas story of the birth of Jesus, the media should have learned priority lessons long ago, certainly after failing to alert the masses when Venus, Jupiter and Mars blended as one brilliant planet in 1968.

"A sight too beautiful to believe," testified one witness. Chances are pretty good, that was the same "star" of the first Christmas in Bethlehem. But don't hold your breath for a repeat. That won't happen for another 800 to 1500 years.

Yes, if your memory tells you so, I do repeat elements of these stories from time to time. Can you blame anyone for being frustrated at not witnessing "the Christmas star?"

While missing the biblically-laden events of the heavens, we are still being fed the millennium garbage which burdens us with fear and gives little or no positive motivation for improving the quality of our lives right now.

"Millennium fever: catch it!" is a bogus event unworthy of the many Christians and believers who are using it as a sales pitch to hawk their wares and enterprises. Who can trust any product with one such urgency as a selling point?

It is a cruel hoax to distract people from what Jesus commands us to concentrate on: "Do

The millennium is now

not worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil" (Mt. 6: 34).

Taking care of today's business is the order of each day for Jesus. James also pitches in, warning us not to presume anything except as God wills it (James 4: 15).

The millennium is right now for all, more urgently tens of millions of us who may not be around for the year 2000.

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Choir performs

The Generations Choir, under the direction of Mary Howard, led the celebration of the First Sunday of the Advent season at Main Street United Methodist Church in Bay St. Louis. Each week the music department presented a special program to highlight the talents of the various handbell and ensemble choirs within the church.

Doctoral program in nursing at USM

The University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Mississippi Medical Center have gotten the OK from the State College Board to create a collaborative doctoral program in nursing.

The board of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning approved a request from USM President Horace Fleming to establish the new degree program during its meeting Nov. 20. The new program could be available as soon as fall 1998.

Dr. Gerry Cadenhead, dean of USM's College of Nursing, said the collaborative PhD program will include a "common core of courses offered by both institutions" with emphasis areas offered that "build upon the historical strengths and faculty expertise of the two universities." Both institutions will admit and graduate students, Cadenhead said.

USM got permission from the College Board in September to separate the School of Nursing from the College of Health and Human Sciences and establish it as the College of Nursing. The nursing field continues to grow and demand continues to increase for nurses with doctoral degrees, she said.

"There was no doctoral program offered in nursing in Mississippi prior to this approval,"

Cadenhead said. "Because of our track record as a successful school of nursing, and now College of Nursing, we naturally thought the fit here at USM was perfect."

Plans for the doctoral program are already in the works, Cadenhead said. The program also may help USM deal with an ongoing nursing faculty shortage plaguing schools nationwide. With a doctoral program, graduate students in that program may be able to teach undergraduate nursing courses, freeing doctorally-prepared faculty to teach in the doctoral program and conduct research.

"With our distance-learning capabilities already in place and our 30-year history of educating quality nursing students, we feel like we have a good handle on putting together a strong doctoral program in nursing," Cadenhead said.

For information about the new program, call the USM College of Nursing at (601) 266-5445.

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Stennis Space Center hosts Smithsonian Natural Partners

Members of the Natural Partners program of the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian Institute and the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress traveled to John C. Stennis Space Center recently to develop their strategic plan for remote sensing expeditions.

The Natural Partners program is a science-education initiative developed by the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History and NASA's Stennis Space Center Education Office. Its mission is to provide students

with access to vast scientific and cultural resources. Using the Internet, CD-ROMs and interactive video-conferencing, the museum provides contact between scientists, teachers and students.

Through this program, teachers and students gain increased access to local and regional university faculty and international renowned scientists. Teachers participate and students participate in live video-conferencing with museum scientists and gain increased interaction with other

educators.

Teachers and students finally have access to the latest scientific discoveries, latest research techniques and are able to visit with the scientists who are in the business of building the newest theories.

Students are encouraged to explore objects of interest to them and participate in the real "doing" of science. They collect, study and discuss natural objects in class and with scientists at local universities. The students are also able to contact Smithsonian scientists who as-

sist in putting the objects in a proper historical or global framework. Students are also given the opportunity to witness live remote sensing scientific exploration, both on-line and through live, interactive presentations.

The "Electronic Classroom" at the Smithsonian is used for communication and live interaction between students, teachers and scientists. Several virtual exhibits are also available on-line, through the Internet.

Callaborators in the Natural Partners program include Ball State University, Mississippi State University, NASA's Stennis Space Center, the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command at SSC, New Mexico State University, The Peace Corps, and the Stark County (Ohio) Educational Service Center, New York Institute of Technology, U.S. Department of Education and Voyager Expanded Learning.

The strategic planning session was held Dec. 11 in the Fibernet 2000 Strategic Planning Center at Stennis Space Center.

Attending the meeting from the National Museum of Natural History were Cissy Ankam, chief of Electronic Outreach; Sean Ewell, product developer and video producer, Natural Partners Office; Dr. Clyde Roper, curator of Invertebrate Zoology; Dr. Alfie Rosenberger, digital curator, Natural Partners Office; Dr. Dennis Stanford, chairman, Department of Anthropology; and Dr. Herman Viola, curator emeritus.

Also attending were Dr. LeeAnne Alonzo, biodiversity specialist and Dr. Shahrourk Mistry, research ecologist of the Monitoring and Assessment of Biodiversity Program, Smithsonian Institution; Dr. Ralph Ehrenberg, chief, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress; and Fred Engle, geographer, Center for Earth and Planetary Services, National Air and Space Museum.

Governor calls for relief for taxpayers

Associated Press
Gov. Kirk Fordice has promised financial relief for Mississippi taxpayers, though he said it will not come in the form of a tax cut.

Fordice, who conceded weeks ago that he won't seek a tax cut in 1998, said Friday he would seek other measures to

provide "long-overdue relief for the hard-working, overburdened taxpayers of Mississippi."

Among other changes, Fordice said he wants to lower the limit on how much long-term debt the state can assume through bonding.

The governor referred to the practice as "mortgaging our children's and grandchildren's future for political expediency."

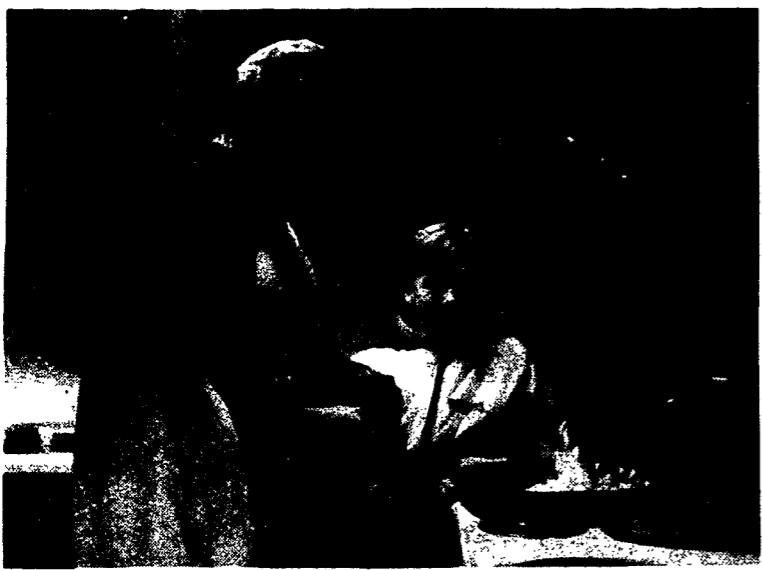
As a member of the state Bond Commission, Fordice has a final vote on approving or rejecting bond plans authorized by the Legislature.

This will be the third straight year the governor has proposed a cap on bond debt. In 1996, a bill passed the House and died in the Senate Finance Committee. In 1997, a bill died in the Senate Finance Committee and never made it to either chamber.

The state Constitution now limits Mississippi's bond debt to an amount equal to 1 1/2 times, or 150 percent, of all revenues on a budget year. Calculations are based on collections from state, federal and special-fund sources.

Fordice wants to lower that cap to an amount equal to 60 percent of revenues collected by the state Tax Collection, taking federal and special funds out of the equation.

In practical terms, the change could save the state millions of dollars in debt-service payments each year, according to Fordice budget director Deb Collier.



Chef visits local school

As a part of the continuing effort to inform students about the importance of good nutrition, Trudy Cuevas' sixth grade class at Hancock North Central Elementary recently received a visit from a local chef. David Armbruster, a chef from the Olive Garden restaurant, talked to the class about teen nutrition and prepared pasta and marinara sauce for them to enjoy.

Supers

Continued from Page 1A

doubled, tripled or sometimes quadrupled. Supervisors explained the county actually cut its taxes by one mill, and blamed the fact that property had not been reappraised in the county in 14 years and the two school bond issues for the sharp rise in taxes.

In efforts to appease property owners, supervisors have asked the state legislative delegation to sponsor a bill in the upcoming session that would bring relief to some taxpayers next year by raising the homestead exemption from the present \$60,000 to \$75,000.

As the new year approaches, there are encouraging signs that major improvements will jump off the drawing boards to the construction phase. Here is a brief rundown on the status of major projects:

— The new county marina at the foot of Pleasure Street — A contract has been let for \$1.2 million, but only \$754,191 is available for first-phase construction. Engineers had suggested scrapping public restrooms, sewerage and electrical and water hookups in the first phase of construction, since the county cannot, by law, let a contract it doesn't have money to cover.

The suggestion hasn't set well with some supervisors, and there are negotiations behind the scenes for an advance of \$300,000 in Tideland funds expected to come to the county in fiscal 1998-99. With the promise that the monies are forthcoming, supervisors could make an intergovernmental loan from surplus funds to begin the complete first-phase construction. Only monies from Tideland grants are being used for the marina.

— The Juvenile Detention Center — Architects and design engineers have estimated the cost of building a 14-cell holding facility and administrative offices for supervisors at the rear of the county courthouse would amount to \$12.2 million, and bond funds are available. The estimate does not include costs for demolishing the old jail at the rear of the courthouse, but the county is expected to pro-

ceed with demolition early next year.

— The new Hancock County Fairgrounds and Livestock Arena planned on an 80-acre site off the Kiln-DeLisle Road — The state has accepted the Equine Committee's design and business plan, and informed supervisors that the county will soon receive \$155,000 in bond funds and another \$500,000 in bonds will be sold early next year. The site has already been cleared, and supervisors have recruited Navy Seabees from Gulfport to help with site preparation.

Just before year's end, supervisors also asked design architects to come up with final plans so the board can let a contract for improvements to the Washington Street boat launch. Estimates are the construction of two jetties and pier improvements would run about \$151,000, and available Seawall funds would be used.

— Road Improvements — Supervisors haven't decided yet on the roads that would be blacktopped or improved with the \$5 million bond issue, but a contract will be let early next year for the striping of several county roads.

The largest road project now underway is the widening and drainage improvements to

Texas Flat Road leading from Hwy. 603 into McLeod Water Park. The \$658,579 project is expected to be completed by next spring.

— Sewerage — Hancock County's Wastewater District 1 is expecting to get a \$555,600 loan and a \$1,555,600 outright grant from the Farmers Home Administration that would extend sewerage to 380 more residents in Shoreline Park. The District is also awaiting word on an application for a \$1.2 million revolving fund loan from the state that would be used to extend sewerage to residents in Clermont Harbor and the Lakeshore area.

Supervisors are also eagerly waiting word on when Europa Cruises Corp. will officially break ground for its proposed gambling/resort complex planned at the South Diamondhead exit off Interstate 10.

Europa officials announced early this month that they expected to get approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with the project.

The \$200 million project is expected to employ 750 during construction and employ up to 2,000 when completed.

Once up and running, it would add an estimated \$6 million in gambling revenues to Hancock County coffers.

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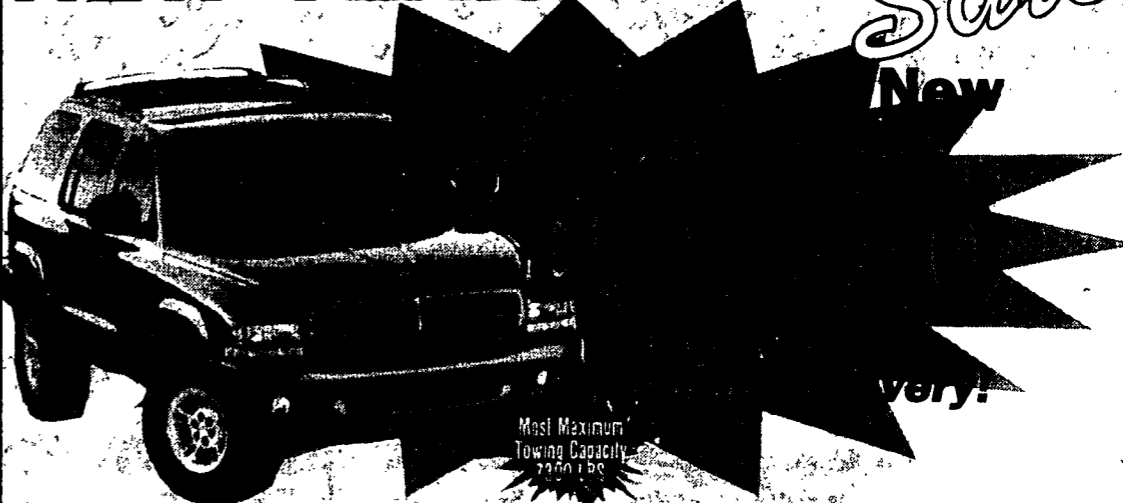
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Lady Hawks soccer team

Members of the Hancock High School Lady Hawks soccer team include assistant coach Brennan Compretta, standing at left, Tanesa Jackson, Mandy Hall, Adriana Diniz, Penny Cox, Alda Carvahlo, Lorena Lesue and head coach Joe Flynt; middle row, Michelle McNabb, Stacey Weaver, Jazmin Gargoum, Casey Tolar and Sara Czenstachovsky; front row, Candice Acker, Courtney Oliver, Mir-

anda Stockstill, Keisha Moran, Leila Gargoum and Kasey Ladner. Team members not pictured include Britteney Seawright, Laura Silas, Rebecca Amacker, Brittany Crouch, Amanda Francis, Melissa Lee, Jillian LeRouge, Stephanie Lottes, Rebecca Marziale, Jessica Meador and Debra Russamando. (Sea Coast Echo staff photo by Randy Ponder)



Hancock Hawks soccer team

Hancock High School expanded its sports program this year to include varsity soccer. Team members of the first ever Hawk soccer team include assistant coach Brennan Compretta, standing at left, Billy Baumgartner, Sebastian Lyachenko, Russel Dreifus, Trevor Uden, Harry Crider, Zack Byrd, and head coach Joe Flynt; middle row, Johnathan Munsch, Chase Sackett, Eddie Moe, Patrick Cannon, P.J. Perez, Benjamin Frisch, and Owen Sullivan; front row, Kendall Ladner, Daniel Hamburg, Cameron McLaurin, Les Sackett, Yusuke Matsuyama and Stoney Dossett. Team members not pictured include Ben Moe, Jason Richmond, B.J. Schubert, Bryan Chavez, Michael Divincent, Jim Pokorny, Craig Cargee, Jimmy Villareal, Donald Allison, Shane McGoe, Jordan Miller, Josh Ladner, David Silas, Zach Lee, Jason Strawley and Riyad Gargoum. (Sea Coast Echo photo by Randy Ponder)

Wildcats' layoff concerns Mathis

'Tis the season to be jolly, but Richard Mathis isn't that jovial when it comes to his Pearl River College Wildcats' Yuletide break.

He says whatever positives were established in the first half of the 1997-98 season can "easily be set back after a two- or three-week layoff. At present, PRCC is 8-3 overall, 1-1 in the South following Dec. 4's 84-81 loss to division rival Mississippi Gulf Coast in Perkinston — PRCC's final game before the Christmas break.

"Really, our Thanksgiving break (Nov. 26-30) hurt us," Mathis said. "I felt like we were playing our best ball up to that point. But when you start talking about the Christmas break, that in my opinion, is way too much time for basketball team to be absent from the court.

"After a layoff, you have to ease back into practice. You can't push your players too much (in practice) or they'll wind up so sore and stiff they're not really ready come game time.

"Historically, we've haven't been a very good basketball team immediately after the holidays, and that concerns me at this point."

A year ago, PRCC was 7-3 at the break, but dropped three straight road games to open the second half of the season. The Wildcats were 7-6 overall with only 11 regular season games remaining before the tournament time. The River wound up 16-8 and capped the No. 3 seed in the South Division Tournament.

Mathis' freshman-laden

team won the South championship and was runner-up to Northwest for the state title.

The Wildcats open the second half of their season Jan. 3 with a home date against Okaloosa-Walton. Ten of PRCC's final 13 regular season games are against South Division foes. "It's tough," he said. "We've

got Co-Lin Jan. 6, followed by Hinds, Southwest, Holmes, Jones, East Central, Gulf Coast and the Faulkner State Tournament (in Bay Minette, Ala.) to round out the month."

Heading into the holidays, Mathis says his unit is okay physically, but he added "this is a nervous time of the year because of grades. We've got a couple of marginal people when it comes to grades, and they, along with myself, are sweating it our right now."

Against Gulf Coast, Pearl River led 38-37 at the half, but had problems attacking the host Bulldogs' 1-3-1 zone in the second half.

Mathis said sophomore point guard Todd Daniels, the Wildcats' No. 2 scorer a year ago, started slow this season, but has gradually improved over the last 3-4 games. Sophomore forward Marcus Mackey "has played well at times, but then seems to just disappear."

Sophomore guard Jeremy Robinson was touted as the

Wildcats' most consistent scorer by Mathis.

Sophomore forward Wylie Kirby, Robinson's prep teammate at McKinley, was cited for his efforts in the Wildcats' 85-71 South opener against East Central Dec. 2.

Sophomore center Chad Jones also drew praise for his consistency.

Freshman center Nate Williams, who doubles as a tight end on the Wildcat football squad, subs for Jones, but is still learning the Wildcat's offensive and defensive schemes.

Three freshman Wildcats — guards Chris Hathorn and Jason Reeves and Daniel Kennedy — have all showed signs of improvement.

"They're all doing just what I expected them to do," Mathis said. "They'll have their moments of glory, then struggle, but that's what you expect from freshmen moving up to this level. They've been a pleasant surprise with their solid bench help."

Mayweather, Arroyo square off at Biloxi Grand Theatre Jan. 9

Grand Casino Biloxi in association with Top Rank Inc. will present an evening of 'live' boxing Friday, Jan. 9.

The 10-round main event will feature undefeated super featherweight Floyd Mayweather (12-0-0, 10 KO's) and Hector Arroyo (16-4-2, 9 KO's). This will be Mayweather's first main event.

In the 1966 Olympic Games, Mayweather was the first American to defeat a Cuban boxer in 20 years. Mayweather, fighting in the featherweight division, won a bronze medal. This year Mayweather tore apart Luis Leija (18-2-1) in September, and followed that with a crushing victory over Angelo Nunes Nov. 20.

In both instances May-

weather stormed to an early attack and put both contenders into an early round tailspin. He is ready to take on the elite in the super featherweight division.

A full exciting undercard is scheduled to include heavy-weight Lamon Brewster (12-0, 11 KO's) of Los Angeles, Calif., facing Artis Pendergrass (9-9, 9 KO's) of Ft. Lauderdale Fla.

Tickets are now on sale at the Biloxi Grand Theatre Box Office 1-800-WIN-2-WIN and at all TicketMaster outlets. Ticket prices are \$10/upper balcony, \$15/lower balcony, \$30/general floor and \$45/ringside. Doors open at 7 p.m.; the first bout is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m.

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BUSINESS NEWS

8A- THE SEA COAST ECHO—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1997

Hectic year for business; financial stability for average Americans

Associated Press

It was a fitful year for the stock market, with triple-digit point moves in the Dow Jones industrial average becoming commonplace. Merger mania was back, with price tags for big companies in the tens of billions of dollars.

Labor had a big victory in the Teamsters strike against United Parcel Service. The tobacco industry agreed to a \$368 billion settlement that would end its liability for smoking-related illnesses.

Well, so what? While big money and big deals flew around the business world in 1997, the rest of us kept on working, investing, supporting the economy, and, when needed, coping with disruptions like strikes.

Actually, the American public was the calming influence when market professionals were frantic, and they provided the foundation on which companies, including those cutting the multibillion-dollar megadeals, could build and expand.

A look at the top developments in business during 1997, and how they affected the average American:

In 1997, the economy took care of itself. Americans in general were working, feeling good about their pocketbooks, Vanguard Group, buyers outnumbered the sellers.

But most conspicuous about Oct. 27 was what most investors did: nothing. Good listeners, most held fast to the buy-and-hold credo regularly espoused by Wall Street's finest—many of whom failed to heed their own advice that day.

The individual investor, whose calmness and fortitude helped the stock market recover from the 1987 crash and made the huge gains of the 1990s possible, supported the market once again.

Sheryl Frank, 31, had given birth to her first child in July, and opened a mutual fund account for the baby girl about a month before the market plunge.

"It did remind me that there's no guarantee with these types of investments," said Frank, a psychologist in Silver Spring, Md. "But it didn't faze me because I kept in mind what my financial adviser said: Just sit tight. Ups and downs will happen, but in the long run, things work out."

Florence Gold, a 92-year-old who depends on investment income to cover the costs of living in a Teaneck, N.J., retirement community, said her biggest concern about the selloff was whether her broker

was having a hectic day. "I didn't feel one bit threatened," Mrs. Gold said.

Lynne Simmons has learned a lesson from the United Parcel Service strike, which had her worried that her specialty foods company might collapse because it couldn't ship to customers.

"I do not take anything for granted, now that I know what the effects (of the strike) are," said the owner of Marietta, Ga.-based Native South. "I won't be Scarlett O'Hara and say 'I'll worry about it tomorrow.' I'll worry about it today."

Hers was one of thousands of businesses disrupted by the first nationwide work stoppage against the delivery giant, which lost loyal customers and the country's financial well-being was a non-issue.

The layoffs that started in the early 1990s were still happening. Thousands of jobs were cut at high-profile companies: 16,600 at Eastman Kodak; 6,400 at Levi Strauss; 9,000 at Woolworth which closed its five-and-dime stores. Hasbro, Kimberly-Clark and Fruit of the Loom were among others with big cuts.

But employers in general added more than 2 million jobs to non-farm payrolls. Unemployment was at a 24-year low of 4.6 percent at yearend, making it a job seeker's market. And so consumers, although they were cautious, could afford to be more confident about the economic outlook than they'd been in a generation.

"It's booming," said Frank Harrison, a reinsurance broker from Freehold, N.J., as he and his family visited Manhattan at Christmas. But, he said, "people worry about the bubble bursting."

Inflation, through November was running at an annual rate of 1.8 percent. The combination of moderate economic growth and price stability meant the Federal Reserve was forced to raise interest rates just once, in late March. As Americans kept working and producing, a series of rate hikes that economists expected just never came to pass.

Even if Black Monday '97 and its 554-point drop in the Dow forced some baby boomers to rethink their dreams of an early retirement, there was little indication that individual investors panicked on Oct. 27.

In fact, it seems some investors were licking their chops, as if they'd been waiting for another chance to "buy the dip," picking up cheap stocks,

as they'd done since the big stock market crash a decade earlier.

At Fidelity Investments, investors started adding money to Fidelity stock funds after the latest selloff. At No. 2 tomers and \$211 million after taxes.

UPS' loss was labor's gain. The strike galvanized worker support nationally, giving organized labor its biggest momentum in years. The Teamsters portrayed the strike as a battle against heavy use of part-time workers and to create more full-time opportunities.

They hope to use the success of their strike to help recruit new members. Ironically, though, the former UPS worker who led the strike, Teamsters president Ron Carey, was later unseated and prevented from running again because of corruption allegations.

The numbers were astounding. A company called WorldCom said it would pay \$37 billion for MCI. First Union will buy fellow banker CoreStates for \$16.1 billion. At times it seemed like we were back in the 1980s—there were hostile takeover offers and bidding wars for ITT and Great Western Financial.

For the most part, the public—whose hard work, vacations and purchases make a takeover target worth buying—paid little attention. Of course, shareholders in these companies—and that includes millions of individual mutual fund investors—made money off the deals. But unless a deal directly affected their lives, most Americans didn't notice, and probably didn't care, who owned the Discover card or Universal Studios.

An exception was the banking industry, where consolidation continued at a fierce clip this past year as big regional banks bought up other big regional banks and often closed branches or eliminated amenities and services.

Brandywine, Md., population 14,000, was "literally devastated" when Crestar Bank acquired Citizens Bank, the only one in town, and threatened to close it, customer Claudette Best recalled. She quickly organized an activist group that got Crestar to keep Citizens open until next June.

But Crestar has cut services, including a drive-up window and safe deposit boxes.

"They left us half a bank; that's what they did," Best said.

The tobacco industry had never lost a major suit to a plaintiff who charged that smoking made them sick. But while Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds and other cigarette

makers swore they'd never cave in to thousands of suits already filed—including those brought by state attorneys general—they faced the unsettling prospect of an unknown number of cases in the future.

So lawyers for tobacco, smokers and the states reached a settlement in June to end the suits, and anti-smoking activists hope, to help prevent the next generation of smokers from even starting.

But Congress must approve the deal, and the pact's momentum has waned in the past six months. Lawmakers want to change it, anti-smoking groups attack it and the Clinton administration is keeping it at arm's length.

Still, industry analysts give it a better than even chance of passing. But no one expects it to emerge unscathed.

Under the pact's current terms, tobacco firms would pay \$368 billion over 25 years, curb advertising and pay fines of up to \$2 billion if teen smoking doesn't drop 30 percent in five years. They would be protected against future suits and win limits on government control of nicotine.

The current plan would require cigarette prices to rise by 70 cents a pack. Under several bills in Congress seeking to alter the deal, a pack that now goes for \$2.50 or more would cost an extra \$1.50.

And smokers? Some estimates range up to 10 percent—would quit rather than pay more. The rest are expected to accept the added cost passed on by cigarette makers.

Said Jim Dickens, 34, of New Orleans, "I'm addicted. They've got me and they know it."

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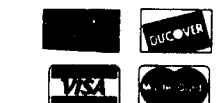
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Cellular South improves coverage

Cellular South officials have announced the completion of a new cellular communications tower on the Mississippi Gulf Coast that will provide improved cellular coverage in Vancleave and the surrounding area. The site, which is located south of Vancleave on Hwy. 57, will also provide enhanced hand-held coverage from Hwy. 57 to I-10.

"It's no secret that Cellular South has Mississippi's largest coverage area. But, we are continuing to enhance our system so that our customers will have even better coverage. In addition to the new tower at Vancleave, we've recently added towers at Wiggins and Camp Shelby," said Jim Richmond, Gulf Coast area manager.

As the first provider of cellular service in most of its markets, Cellular South has become the largest provider of cellular service in Mississippi. With the introduction of Telapak™ to its family of products, Cellular South now offers a total telecommunications package including residential and long

distance telephone service, as well as cellular service. Cellular South provides service to 43 of Mississippi's 82 counties and operates 44 retail locations throughout Mississippi.

Business program changes air time

The award-winning *Mississippi Business Today (MBT)*, featuring everything from the state's mom-and-pop businesses to its giant international corporations, is moving to a new time slot beginning Jan. 9.

The show's new time slot will be at 8 p.m. following Wall Street Week, in what co-host Michael Newton said is "a wonderful place to be, with a very strong business lead-in."

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BUSINESS NEWS

Donating appreciated securities can eliminate capital gains tax

(Editor's note: Following is an update of one of our most popular columns.)

Many people have stocks or other securities that they have owned for a long time. Over the years, additional shares may have been acquired through stock splits, dividend reinvestment or mergers. The current value of the security may be much more than the original cost. If the security is sold, the investor receives a sizable capital gain. Many investors in this situation feel they can't afford to sell their securities.

However, they may be able to afford to donate the security or securities to a charitable organization such as a college or church. That organization may then sell the security and use the proceeds, or hold it for income and future appreciation.

If the donor chooses to sell the security and then donate the proceeds, he or she still has to pay taxes on the capital

gain. By donating the security directly, the donor not only avoids capital gains tax but also gets a tax deduction for the security's fair market value at the time of the donation (assuming the donor held the security for more than 18 months).

Donations of appreciated securities to charitable organizations are an important way to help improve our communities. In "The Gospel of Wealth," Andrew Carnegie observed, "Those who would administer wisely must,

indeed, be wise, for one of the serious obstacles to the improvement of our race is indiscriminate charity." Carnegie rarely, if ever, gave money directly to individuals. He invested in institutions that he believed would administer his gifts to the community "far better than it could or would have done for itself."

Carnegie gave away more than \$300 million in his lifetime. Much of this was done through gifts of appreciated securities.

You may not have Carnegie's resources, but if

you think you might benefit from making a charitable donation, ask your tax professional or investment representative.

Paper producer approves new common stock

Shareholders of Georgia-Pacific Corp. (NYSE:GP) approved creation of a new class of common stock that will separately reflect the performance and value of the company's timber business, which will be known as The Timber Company.

The new Timber Company common stock, which will trade on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "TGP," will be the largest pure timber equity investment available in North America.

Georgia-Pacific's existing common stock will be redesignated as Georgia-Pacific Group common stock, which will retain the "GP" symbol on the New York Stock Exchange, and separately reflect the performance of the company's pulp, paper and building products business.

The company promptly will distribute one share of the newly created class of Timber Group common stock for each share of Georgia-Pacific Group common stock to shareholders of record today.

The creation of two classes of common stock is designed to increase shareholder value by separating the cash flows and performance of the distinct businesses, while at the same time enabling Georgia-Pacific to retain its timber assets and the tax and credit advantages of doing business as a single company.

State retirees receive increase

Nearly 43,000 retirees and beneficiaries from systems administered by the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) received cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) payments during December providing the maximum amount allowed by state law.

The PERS Board of Trustees approved a total COLA for the current fiscal year of 4 percent of the benefits a retiree or beneficiary receives during the year for each full fiscal year of retirement.

The COLA includes 2.5 percent as prescribed by state law, and an additional discretionary amount of 1.5 percent approved by the PERS Board as a result of a strong performance by investments during the year.

PERS had a 19.9 percent return on its investments during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 1997.

COLA payments were issued to retirees and beneficiaries of record as of Dec. 1, 1997, who have received benefits from PERS, the Mississippi Highway

Safety Patrol Retirement System or the Supplemental Legislative Retirement Plan for at least one fiscal year. The state's fiscal year is July through June.

To qualify for a COLA payment during the current fiscal year, retirees must have begun receiving benefits no later than July 1, 1996. Retirees with benefits effective Aug. 1, 1996, through July 1, 1997, will be eligible for a COLA payment during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998.

Retirees whose benefits were effective Aug. 1, 1997, or later, will qualify during the fiscal year that begins July 1, 1999.

Retirees and beneficiaries who have not elected to receive the base (2.5 percent) amount in 12 monthly installments were issued the entire 4 percent in December.

Retirees and beneficiaries who are receiving the base amount monthly received an additional 1.5 percent in December.

A retiree receiving the entire amount in December who had received benefits for 10 fiscal years as of June 30, 1997, received a COLA amount equal to 40 percent (10 years times 4 percent) of his or her annual benefits, minus any federal withholding tax.

The same retiree would have received 15 percent of annual benefits if he or she receives the base amount monthly. Annual benefits used to compute the COLA do not include any COLA amount.

Generally, a retiree's total COLA payment for the year is the same regardless of whether the base amount is received monthly or in a lump sum during December.

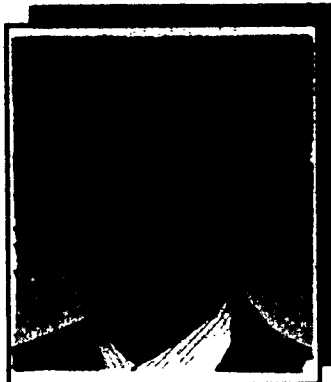
PERS total COLA payments for the current fiscal year will be approximately \$112 million. Ninety-five percent of benefits are paid to Mississippi residents.

By authorizing the maximum amount for the third consecutive year, the Board assured that every eligible retiree and beneficiary who received a COLA payment last year will receive a larger payment this year.

Vitale to speak in D'head

Deborah A. Vitale, chairman of the board of directors for Casino World Inc., is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Professional Association of Management Consultants (PAMC) on Dec. 10 at the Pines at the Pines Hotel in Palm Beach, Fla.

The meeting will focus on the current state of the management consulting industry and the challenges ahead.



FINANCIAL FOCUS

Submitted by Craig Foster
Edward Jones Co.

Unemployment rate down

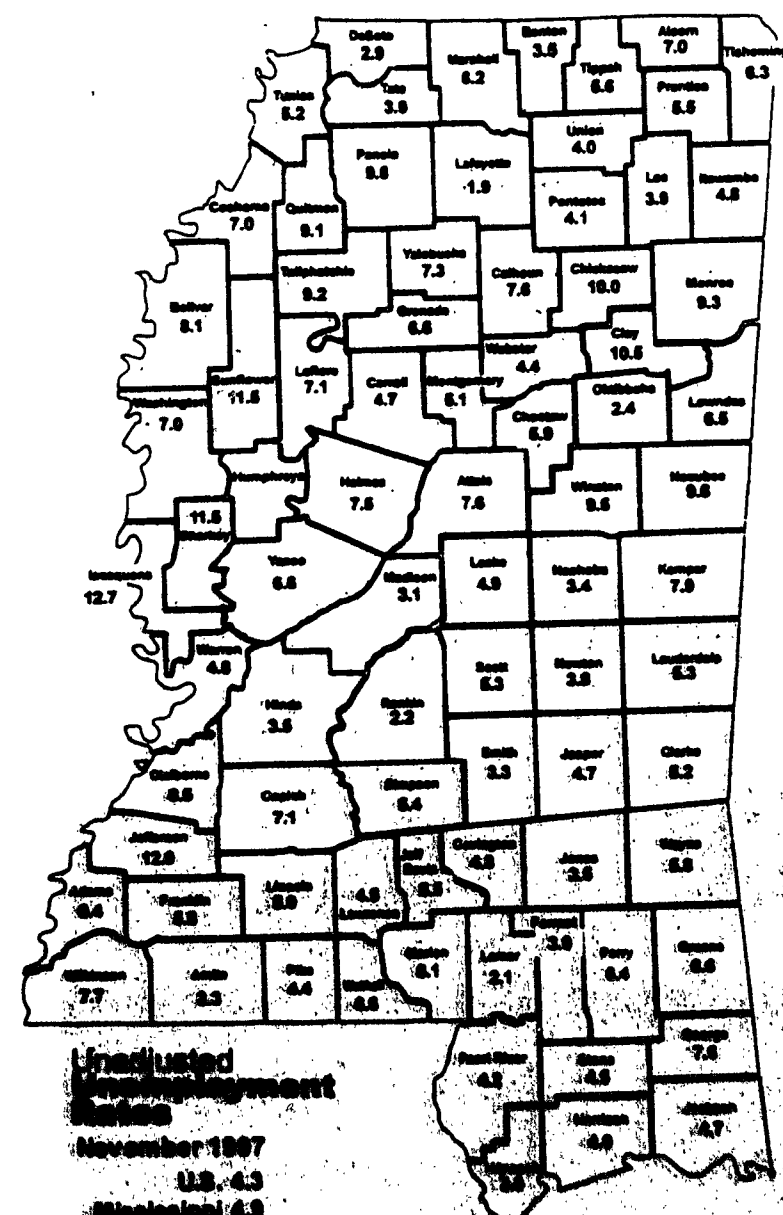
Mississippi's unemployment rate dropped considerably for the month of November. November's unemployment rate dropped to 4.9 percent, down from 5.7 percent in October. The Labor Market Information (LMI) department of Mississippi Employment Security Commission (MESC) recently released the statistics.

MESC labor market specialists attribute the increase of jobs fueled by a strong performance in retail trade jobs. Total employment rose by 15,100 since October and was up 26,000 compared to November 1996.


Most counties registered moderate declines in joblessness from October, but agricul-


tural areas generally saw their rate rise as harvest activities came to a close. Localized layoffs and recalls affected some counties, causing them to deviate from the statewide trend. Seven counties posted double-digit rates, topped by Jefferson at 12.9 percent. Thirty-three counties recorded 5.0 percent or less, led by five that were less than 3.0 percent.

December will likely bring mixed results for local economies. Agricultural areas will possibly have higher rates as the harvest season ends. Urban areas could see rates go down as retail jobs increase with the rush of the holiday buying season.

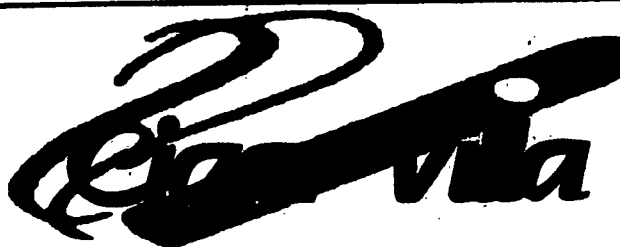


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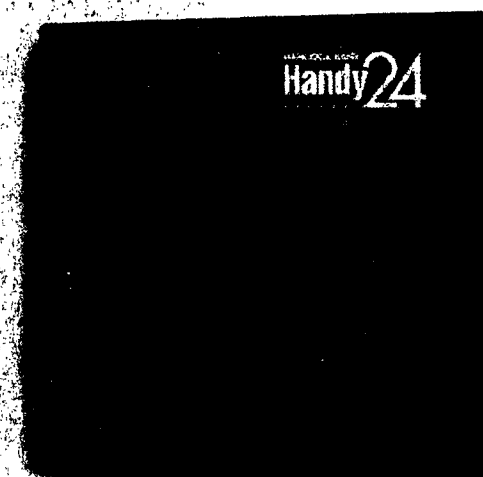
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County

Continued from Page 1A

was caught two days later in Pascagoula, and returned to the Hancock County Justice Facility, where he is awaiting trial.

The county nearly lost one of its most beloved residents when Evelyn McPhail suffered life-threatening spinal injuries in an automobile accident in May. She survived the wreck, and continues to make progress. McPhail, a Diamondhead resident, is the former chairperson of the Republican Party.

In December, property owners filled the supervisors' meeting room and editorial pages to vent their anger over the tax increases. However, Tax Assessor Eddie Murtagh calmly explained to residents that the reappraisal and bond issues helped to cause the raises.

Voters had approved a \$9 million bond for the Bay St. Louis-Waveland School District and a \$20 million bond for the county school district in May. Additionally, the county approved a \$6.2 million bond for road paving and construction of a juvenile detention facility.

Other events that framed 1997:

— The entire Gulf Coast region began to adjust to a new area telephone code. The long-standing code of 601 is out, 228 is in.

— Supervisors and city officials continued to grapple with the problem of future garbage disposal, with no solution in sight. By year's end, it was agreed that a Solid Waste Authority consisting of the county, and the cities of Bay St. Louis and Waveland would be formed.

However, left unclear is whether the proposed six-member authority will be made up of elected officials or some that might be appointed.

Belle Isle subdivision residents are hoping for a resolution to their sewerage problems. Raw sewage has backed up in the subdivision's ditches, and the waters of the bayou that meanders through Belle Isle are so polluted that health officials say some streams are unsafe for fishing or other forms of recreation. Residents are trying to form their own sewerage and water district to resolve problems for all of Pearlinton.

And in the Jourdan River Shores subdivision off Hwy. 603, the sewerage disposal system is so overloaded that at one point, raw sewage backed up into people's homes.

Additionally, where to place a new landfill received much discussion but no resolution.

— Supervisors made history this year by adopting zoning and sewerage ordinances. The county's first Planning & Zoning Commission was also formed.

— Bay St. Louis Mayor Eddie Favre was elected to his third term in May. Carleen Murphy Moran stunned incumbent Charlie Scianna for one council seat, and another political newcomer, Connie Lampley, ousted incumbent Tom Farve in the primary and defeated Char-

les Johnson in a runoff to grab another council seat. It is the first time the city has two women on the council.

— In January, Favremania gripped Hancock County as Green Bay quarterback and Hancock County native Brett Favre was preparing to play New England in the Super Bowl in New Orleans. Wisconsin tourists flooded Kiln, Favre's hometown, to take a walk into Favre's past, have their pictures taken where their hero was raised.

An NFL sponsored party on the Friday before the big game drew well over 3,000 to the Broke Spoke bar in Kiln. Later in the year, bar owners capitalized on the hype and opened a Broke Spoke II in a Green Bay suburb. The Packers went on to win the Super Bowl.

Favre's brother, Scott, also fared well after apparently violating terms of his probation after pleading guilty to felony DUI. Favre was originally ordered back to jail in May, but a judge ruled an error had been committed by the Mississippi Department of Corrections and he was allowed to return home under the house arrest program.

— The county's Narcotics Task Force was nearly disbanded at one point, but by year's end, the drug enforcement agency had new life, and a new director in Shane Corr.

— Hancock Medical Center director Thomas Symonds suffered a stroke in January after only being on the job for several months. Eventually, Hal Leftwich was named to replace Symonds.

— A frightening kidnapping during a bank robbery in Diamondhead robbery ended peacefully after brothers John and Thomas Wild were released unharmed by their captor.

— Construction of a casino near Diamondhead may begin in 1998 after Casino World was granted all of its necessary permits. Casino World is currently looking for a venturing partner to build the casino/hotel/golf course complex, which will sit on the northern end of the Bay of St. Louis. It will be located off the South Diamondhead exit of Interstate 10.

Not all of the news was for good for Casino World, however, as director Kip Ridden resigned following an in-house battle over control of the company.

Only good news came out of Stennis Space Center. The Navy announced it will relocate a Human Resource Personnel office in the underused Army Ammo plant facilities. The Navy SEALs, and several other projects were announced for the giant test site, including groundbreaking for a \$7.6 million Naval Research Lab.

— The Gulf Coast's annual Spring Pilgrimage, which has its roots in Hancock County, celebrated its 50th anniversary.

— A raid by federal agents resulted in the arrests of several people for running illegal gambling operations at eight area bars.

— The reopening of Coastal Health Clinic, which closed in 1995, was discussed, but no definitive timetable has been set. The clinic would provide health service to the area's poor and elderly, who now have to venture to Harrison County for medical aid.

— Gulf Coast Limited, a daily Amtrak train service between Bay St. Louis and New Orleans, made its final run in March after several 11th hour attempts to save the route failed.

— A countywide recycling program was initiated in April.

— The Mississippi Department of Transportation began a

massive paving project on Highway 90 in April. After a lengthy delay, the majority of the work has been completed, although the agency still has to complete drainage work for the city of Bay St. Louis.

MDOT also became the target of motorists' ire when signal lights at two intersections were altered.

— The widening and improving of Texas Flat Road is underway. Once completed, the road will provide much easier access to McLeod Park, which enjoyed a banner year in 1997.

— A new little league baseball complex was opened in Bay St. Louis. The Scott Demboski Soccerplex also opened.

— Plans for the Oaks, a new golf course/residential development in Pass Christian, were announced. The course is scheduled to open Feb. 1.

— Tensions ran high for several hours in May as Woody Franks positioned himself atop the K-Mart in Waveland and threatened to start shooting. He was talked down without a shot being fired.

— High water flooded many homes and businesses in Bay St. Louis in May when a thunderstorm stalled directly over the city and dumped 12 inches of rain. Waveland and other areas of the county received as little as two inches of rain.

Tornadoes also ripped through the county in October, destroying several trailers and damaging some homes in the Necaise Crossing Community and in nearby areas of Pearl River County.

— Leadership Hancock County graduated its first class.

— A blast at the Tennessee Gas Pipeline facility in Ansley last June shocked and angered residents, but fortunately, there were no serious injuries.

— Admiral Paul Gaffney, commander of the Naval Ocea-

nographic and Research Center at Stennis, was awarded a second star and later transferred to Washington, D.C. to take over the Navy's Research Center. Captain Kenneth Barbor was named to replace Gaffney.

— Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church celebrated its 150th anniversary.

— In September, Murtagh seized the property at the Jubilation Casino in Bayou Caddy for nonpayment of taxes. The casino later paid the taxes.

— Bay St. Louis and CSX railroad remain locked in a battle over the closing of crossings, but the two sides are said to be nearing a compromise.

— A spectacular blaze in October destroyed many units of a mini-warehouse in Waveland. Other fires destroyed a home, two boats and a truck in Shoreline Park, and the popular Log Cabin Lounge at Lower Bay Road and Hwy. 90.

— Boeing snubbed Hancock County and instead chose Huntsville, Ala., for a new plant. The plant would have created 3,000 new jobs in the area.

— Alcan Cable announced a \$1 million upgrade, and Hancock Industries at Port Bienville received a state loan for plant expansion.

— The awarding of a contract for a new marina at Bayou Caddy ran into several snags, including a shortage in funding. Its future remains uncertain as the new year unfolds.

— Construction on the new country club in Diamondhead was halted for several weeks after the contractor encountered financial difficulties. Construction was restarted later in the fall.

— Construction was begun to straighten a dangerous curve on Highway 90 at Henderson Point, and completion is scheduled for the year 2000.

Waveland

Continued from Page 1A

down. The structure was an eyesore in the community for years, but legal issues delayed its demolition.

Construction began on the extension to the Garfield Lader Municipal Pier. The city has received \$300,000 in Tidelands Funds for the project and has applied for future funding.

Waveland resident Allison Anderson, with the Coleman Avenue Coalition, submitted a plan to revamp Coleman Avenue to the Board. Anderson's vision is to transform the street with a fishing village theme.

The Little League field on Waveland Avenue was outfitted with new lights in 1997.

Community involvement was high this year, with over 300 children participating in the Waveland Civic Association Fishing Rodeo.

The Association added to the festivities with a Christmas parade in conjunction with the city's Festival of Lights.

Over 75 people turned out for free health screenings at the first city-sponsored health fair. Organized by Alderman Tommy Longo, the event featured eye and glucose screenings, as well as children's fingerprinting by the Waveland Police Department and fire prevention tips from the Fire Department.

City fire and police departments were both recognized for jobs well done.

Through efforts of the Waveland Police Department, burglaries in the city dropped by 40 percent. Police Chief Jimmy Varnell was contacted by the FBI statistical unit for information on how the decrease was achieved. Varnell credited increased police visibility and patrols and public awareness.

The Waveland Fire Service was awarded an improved fire rating of five, making it one of only 23 fire services state-wide to have a five rating.

Several new ordinances made it into the books, including one which delineates who may be buried in the city's cemetery.

A fireworks ordinance was adopted which outlaws tents for sale of fireworks and regulates when the fireworks may be sold.

Fleuriet stayed in the news with his request for a variance to operate a home business. He is the owner of Coastal Security Services and describes himself as an entrepreneur.

The matter has been ongoing for several months, bouncing back and forth between the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board.

MILITARY

SEAMAN BRADLEY

Navy Seaman Randall D. Bradley, a 1992 graduate of Hancock High School, recently returned from a five-month South American deployment aboard the dock landing ship USS Whidbey Island.

He joined the Navy in May 1995.

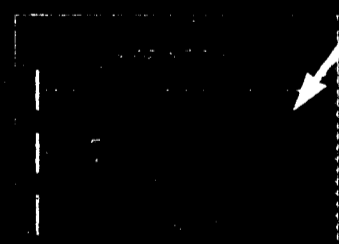


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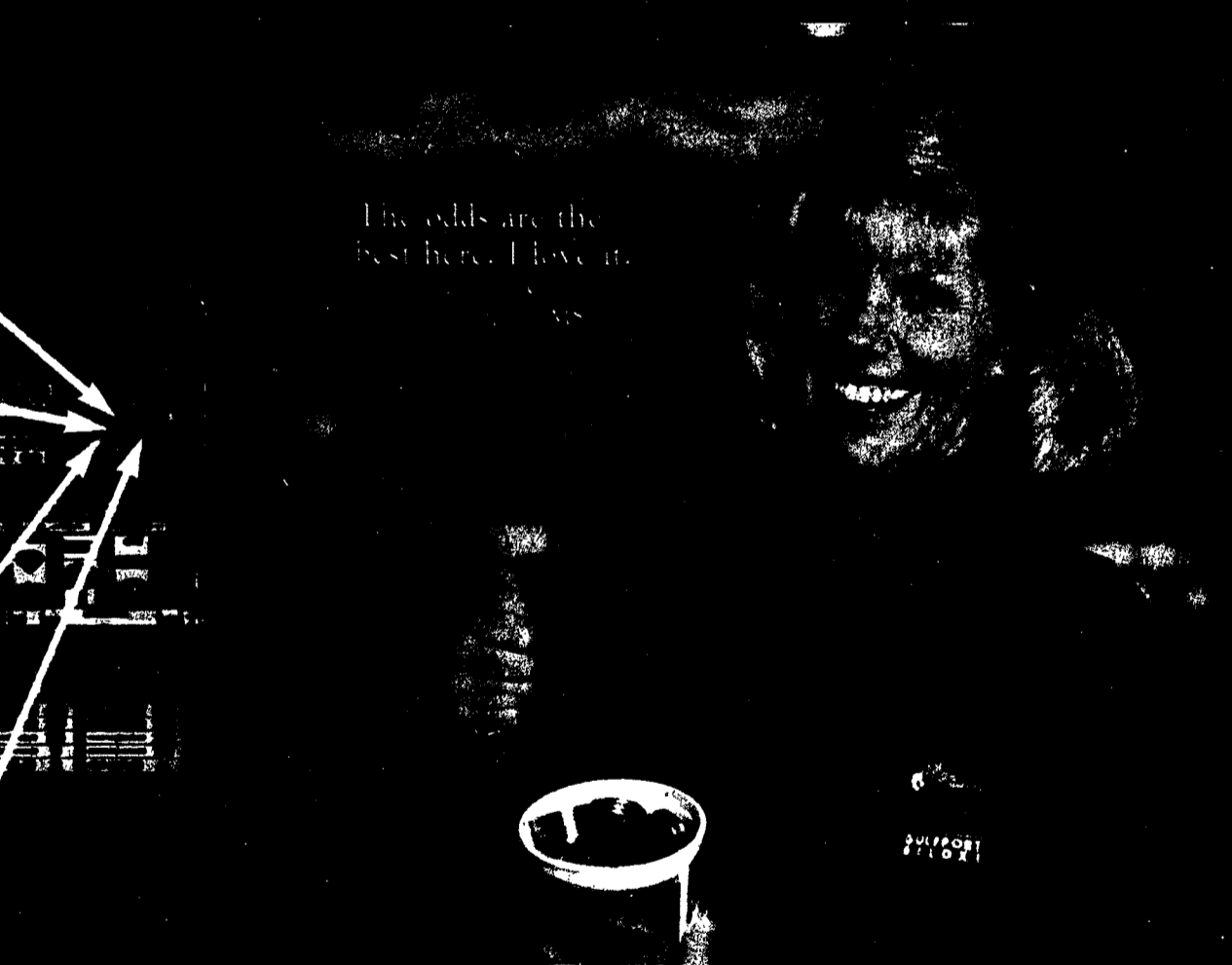
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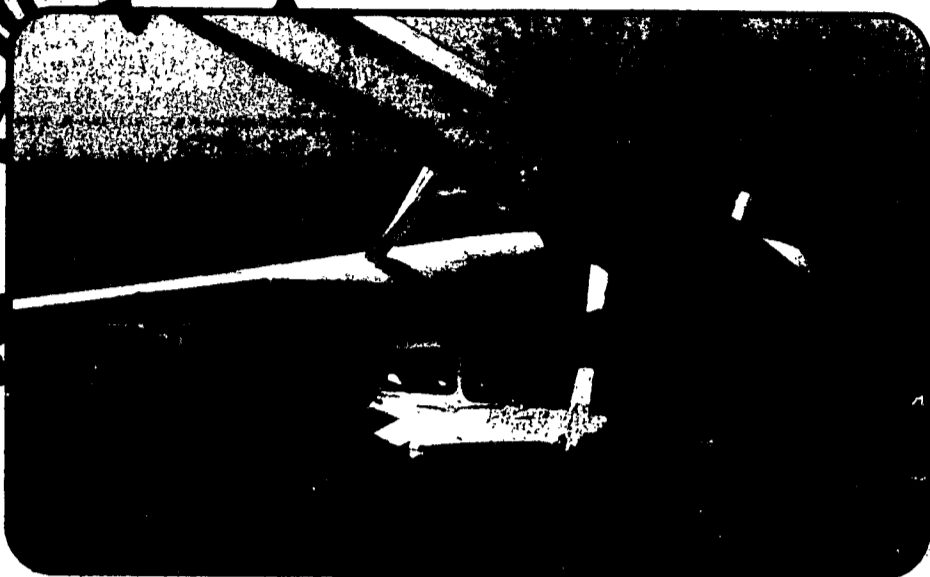
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1997: Year in review



Amazingly, no one was seriously injured when this small plane crashed on its final approach to the Diamondhead airport.



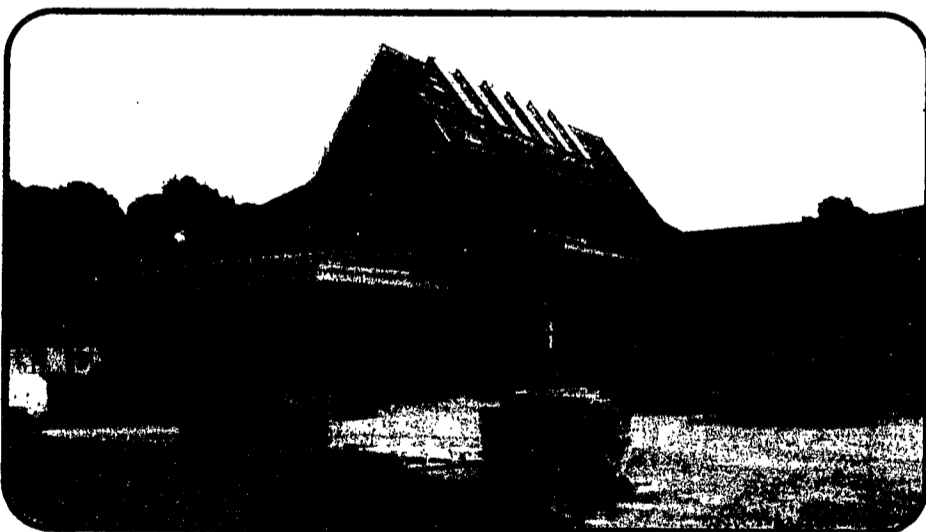
St. Stanislaus won the Class II championship with a 5-0 victory over St. Joseph in Pearl.



Several students were hurt in a serious car wreck on the Bay bridge in May. Fortunately, none of the injuries were serious.



Favremania gripped the county for two weeks in January.



Work was temporarily stopped at Diamondhead County Club because of contractor problems. Work has restarted.

Ronnie Bueche was named 1997 Mrs. Mississippi and finished second in the Mrs. America Pageant.



Bay St. Louis experienced flooding after a spring storm dumped 12 inches of rain in the city.



County officials seized the assets of the Jubilation Casino in Bayou Caddy for non-payment of taxes. The casino later paid.



GCCE scholarships

Gulf Coast Continuing Education recently rewarded six \$500 scholarships to undergraduate and graduate nursing students at its annual Christmas luncheon in Biloxi Dec. 17. Six students were selected from the many scholarship applications, including:

Tracee Weary, SN, William Carey College; Debra Silas, SN, University of Southern Mississippi; Sharen McMillon, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Jackson County Campus; Tina Gauthier, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Jefferson Davis Campus; Cecelia Burke, RN, MNA District # 5; and Kathleen Arnold, RN, MNA District # 6.

Gulf Coast Continuing Education is a consortium of nursing educators from ADN and BSN programs on the Coast district, staff development educators from the local hospitals from Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties, representatives from local home health-care agencies and Keeler Air Force Base.

Christian music concert

A total of 84 church choirs will comprise a 1,500-plus voice choir for a special event of Christian musical praise at 7 p.m. Jan. 19 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson.

The choir, mainly from Mississippi, but with groups from Alabama and Louisiana participating, will sing together the musical "God With Us," billed as "A gift of celebration to our Lord and for the people of Mississippi."

The choir will be accompanied by a 150-piece volunteer orchestra.

The public is invited. There is no admission charge.

The program is part of the Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference which begins at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 19, and continues through the next day with all sessions at Alta Woods Baptist Church in Jackson, except for the "God With Us" presentation at the coliseum.

MADISON AMBER JOY PINGEL

Mr. and Mrs. David Pingel of Kiln announce the birth of a daughter, Madison Amber Joy, November 11, 1997 at 3:26 p.m. at Gulfport Memorial Hospital.

She weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces.

Mrs. Pingel is the former Tanisha Rooks.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rooks of Kiln.

Paternal grandparents are Christy and Bob Synder of Bismark, Mo.

Great-grandparents include Mr. and Mrs. Albert Falcon of Bursas, La.

Madison is welcomed by her sister, Torey.

MATTIE DE ANNE KELLAR

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Trenton Kellar of Picayune announce the birth of a daughter, Mattie De Anne, December 18, 1997 at North Shore Regional Medical Center in Slidell.

Mrs. Kellar is the former Stacy Reeves.

WYATT DAVID WARD

Mr. and Mrs. David Ward of Pass Christian announce the birth of their fifth child, Wyatt David, December 20, 1997 at 1:36 p.m. at Hancock Medical Center in Bay St. Louis.

He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce.

Mrs. Ward is the former Valerie Conant.

Maternal grandparents are Bill and Arlene Conant of Pass Christian.

Paternal grandparents are James and Marie Ward of Lenoir, N.C.

Wyatt is welcomed by Chelsi, Lacie, Daniel and Shelby.

TYLER BRADEN BOUNDS

Julie Bounds of Bay St. Louis announces the birth of a son, Tyler Braden, December 22, 1997 at 4:29 p.m. at Hancock Medical Center in Bay St. Louis.

He weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces.

Grandparents are Otis and Peggy Bounds of Bay St. Louis. Great-grandparents are Dorothy Bounds and the late Otis Bounds Sr.

DESTINY MARIE KEY

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Key of Bay St. Louis announce the birth of a daughter, Destiny Marie, December 11, 1997 at 11:56 a.m. at Hancock Medical Center in Bay St. Louis.

She weighed 4 pounds, 14 ounces.

Mrs. Key is the former Wendy Schiro.

Maternal grandparents are Frank and Patricia Schiro and John and Gwen Thomas.

Paternal grandmother is Diane Key.

Destiny Marie is welcomed by her sister, Danielle, and brother, Brandon.

CLUBS

American Legion Junior Auxiliary

The Clement R. Bontemps American Legion Junior Auxiliary Unit 139 had its monthly meeting Dec. 10. Club members enjoyed a presentation by Janet Aime on the candy cane and a Christmas party. The Juniors brought in donations of canned goods and fruit to be donated to the Food Pantry and fruit baskets for Hotel Reed and Dunbar Village nursing homes.

On Dec. 14 the Juniors helped with the cops for tots party, and on Dec. 22 the canned goods were donated to the Food Pantry and fruit baskets were delivered to the nursing homes.

The next meeting is Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend.

8 & 40 Salon 218

Salon 8 & 40 held its annual Christmas party Dec. 18 at the Clement R. Bontemps American Legion Post 139 in Bay St. Louis.

Contributions in support of three area children with cystic fibrosis were made by partners and are called "love gifts." The primary purpose of the 8 & 40 is to assist in the prevention and control of tuberculosis, cystic fibrosis, lung and other respiratory diseases in children.

Mississippi bishop becomes British knight

Anglican Bishop Montgomery Griffith-Mair of Bay St. Louis has been named the next Earl of Eldritch.

The earldom has been vacated by His Royal Highness Prince Larson of Lyonesse, who granted the bishop the right of succession by princely authority and as a personal gift from the prince to Bishop Griffith-Mair.

"Becoming the 3rd Earl of Eldritch," noted the bishop, "is of special significance and great pleasure since my family from 1544 has held the family li-

neage of Eldritch."

Known informally as Father Monty, the bishop says that upon receiving the earldom from Prince Larson it was like "getting a wonderful Christmas gift that will last for years to come."

Stylistically, Bishop Griffith-Mair will be titled "Montgomery, the 3rd Earl of Eldritch" under royal seal and ecclesiastic protocol. He is presently the rector of The Anglican Chapel of Archbishop Robert Leighton (1611-84) in Bay St. Louis.



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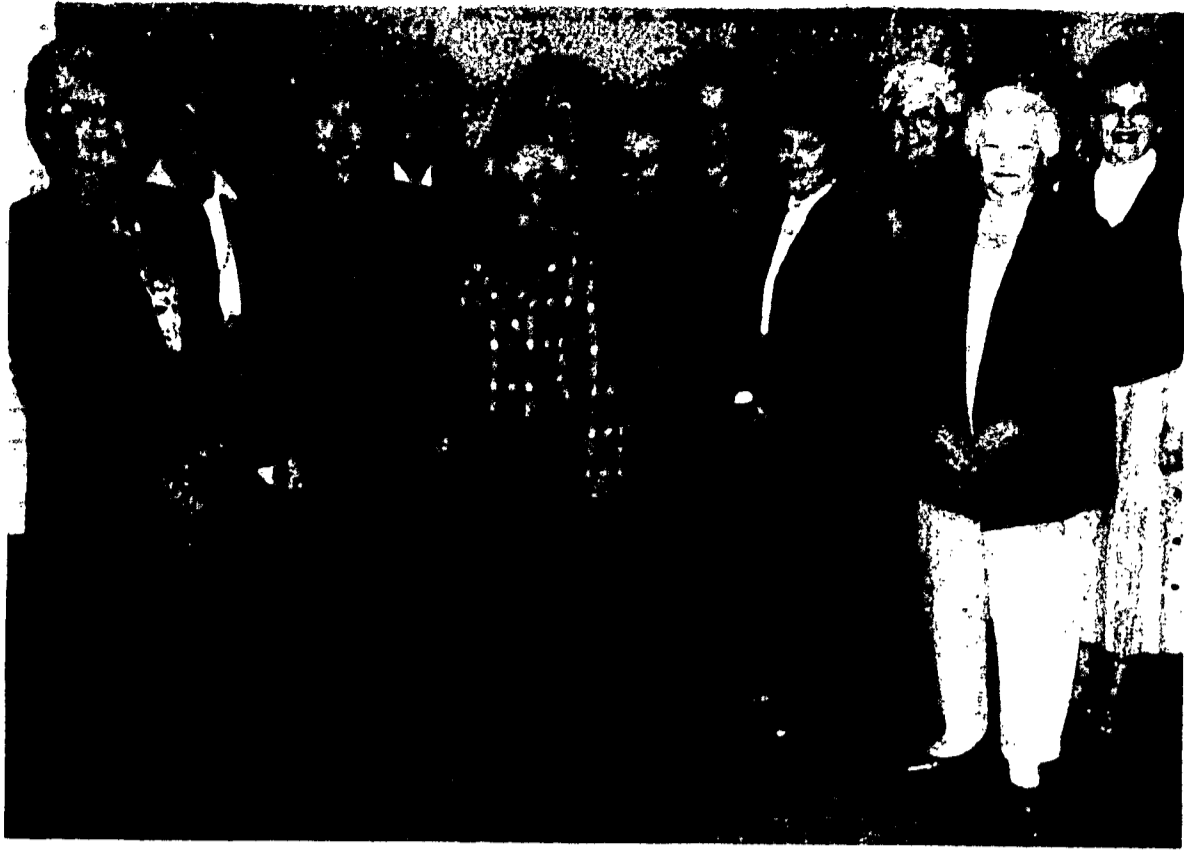
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MHA auxiliaries elect new board

The Mississippi Hospital Association Society for Hospital Auxiliaries recently elected its new board for the 1997-98 term at the 23rd annual assembly in Jackson. Pictured are, first row from left, Gene Higgins, Methodist Medical Center, Jackson; Lola Conerly, president, Walthall County General Hospital, Tylertown; Evelyn Robertson and Brenda Bell, both of Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle, Columbus; Joy Mullen, Tallahatchie General Hospital, Charleston; and Ruth Round, Newton Regional Hospital, Newton; second row, Gerry Toney, past president, Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle, Columbus; Theresa Bourgeois, Hancock Medical Center, Bay St. Louis; Juanita Alexander, River Oaks Health System, Jackson; Maxine Murphree, Trace Regional Hospital, Houston; Muriel Holman, Rush Foundation Hospital, Meridian; and Ann Brent, Oktibbeha County Hospital, Starkville.

USMGC registration

The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast is holding final spring registration for new and reapplying students Thursday, Jan. 8.

Registration runs from 2-6 p.m. at the Gulf Park campus only. Late registration is Jan. 12-16 at Gulf Park, Keesler and the Jackson County campus.

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BESTSELLERS

The Hancock County Library System reports the following books listed on the New York Times Bestseller List have been ordered by the system's libraries. The initials in parentheses following the descriptions stand for the library branch(es) at which the books are available: B=Bay-Waveland; K=Kiln; NA=Not Available.

- FICTION**
- COLD MOUNTAIN**, by Charles Frazier. (Atlantic Monthly, \$24) A Confederate soldier journeys home toward the end of the Civil War to meet an old love. (B)
 - THE GHOST**, by Danielle Steel. (Delacorte, \$25.95) On a trip to New England, a man whose life has gone awry finds answers to his problems in diaries in an old trunk. (BK)
 - CAT & MOUSE**, by James Patterson. (Little, Brown, \$24.95) Alex Cross contends with two serial killers determined to take his life. (BK)
 - ANOTHER CITY, NOT MY OWN**, by Dominick Dunne. (Crown, \$25) The O. J. Simpson murder trial as witnessed and participated in by a journalist. (B)
 - THE LETTER**, by Richard Paul Evans. (Simon & Schuster, \$15.95) In the last volume of the "Christmas Box" trilogy, the Parkin family recovers from its lingering grief over the loss of a daughter. (B)
 - VIOLIN**, by Anne Rice. (Knopf, \$25.95) From 19th-century Vienna to present-day New Orleans: a demonic fiddler preys upon a woman who loves his music. (BK)
 - COMANCHE MOON**, by Larry McMurtry. (Simon & Schuster, \$28.50) Two Texas

- Rangers, veterans of "Lonesome Dove," battle defiant Comanche Indians who are determined to defend their way of life. (B)
 - SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST**, by Jonathan Kellerman. (Bantam, \$24.95) Alex Delaware pursues the killer of a diplomat's teen-age daughter. (B)
 - LUCKY YOU**, by Carl Hiaasen. (Knopf, \$24) A maverick journalist undertakes to help a woman whose winning Florida lottery ticket has been stolen. (B)
 - THE MATARESE COUNTDOWN**, by Robert Ludlum. (Bantam, \$27.50) A CIA officer struggles to thwart the return of an international cabal of power brokers and their hired assassins. (B)
- NON-FICTION**
- MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL**, by John Berendt. (Random House, \$23) The mysterious death of a young man in Savannah, Ga. (BK)
 - THE MAN WHO LISTENS TO HORSES**, by Monty Roberts. (Random House, \$23) The memoirs of a professional horse trainer. (B)
 - ANGELA'S ASHES**, by Frank McCourt. (Scribner, \$24) An Irish-American writer recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick. (BK)
 - CITIZEN SOLDIERS**, by Stephen E. Ambrose. (Simon & Schuster, \$27.50) The United States Army from Normandy to the Bulge in Germany's surrender. (B)
 - THE PERFECT STORM**, by Sebastian Junger. (Norton, \$23.95) An account of the

- nor'easter of 1991, focusing on a crew of fishermen from Gloucester, Mass. (B)
 - THE DARK SIDE OF CAMELOT**, by Seymour M. Hersh. (Little, Brown, \$26.95) A journalist's reappraisal of the private and public life of John F. Kennedy. (B)
 - INTO THIN AIR**, by Jon Krakauer. (Villard, \$24.95) A journalist's account of his ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history. (B)
 - DIRTY JOKES AND BEER**, by Drew Carey. (Hyperion, \$22.95) Observations on his life and life in general by the comedian. (B)
 - DIANA: Her True Story—In Her Own Words**, by Andrew Morton. (Simon & Schuster, \$22.95) An updated, expanded version of the 1992 best seller about the Princess of Wales. (B)
 - CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD: Book 1**, by Neale Donald Walsch. (Putnam, \$19.95) The author addresses questions of good and evil, guilt and sin. (B)
- Advice, How-to and Miscellaneous**
- JOY OF COOKING**, by Irma S. Rombauer, Marion Rombauer Becker and Ethan Becker. (Scribner, \$30) A new revision of a book first published in 1931.
 - SIMPLE ABUNDANCE**, by Sarah Ban Breathnach. (Warner, \$17.95) Advice for women seeking to improve the way they look at themselves. (BK)
 - MAKING FACES**, by Kevyn Aucoin. (Little, Brown, \$29.95) Counsel about the use of cosmetics from a makeup artist. (B)
 - MEN ARE FROM MARS, WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS**, by John Gray. (Harper Collins, \$25) Improving communication and relationships. (BK)

New wildlife foundation

Gov. Kirk Fordice announced the creation of the new Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation, according to the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

At a press conference in the Museum of Natural Science, Fordice said the Fish and Wildlife Foundation — known as Wildlife Mississippi — will be dedicated solely to conservation efforts in Mississippi.

"Wildlife Mississippi will be one of the few organizations anywhere in America focusing on creating new habitats for fish and wildlife," Fordice said.

"We cannot assume, even for one moment, that our wildlife will always be abundant. We must work diligently to continue our leading role nationally in wildlife management and conservation."

Fordice said that all monies raised to support Wildlife Mississippi will be spent in the Magnolia State to improve fish and wildlife habitats, to educate the public about conservation, and to create additional outdoor recreation opportunities for Mississippians.

At the news conference Fordice was flanked by Dr. Sam Polles, executive director of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, Clarke Reed and James Cummins with Delta Wildlife Foundation, and Peyton Self, chairman of Wildlife Mississippi.

For information about the Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation, contact the organization at P.O. Box 10, Stoneville, MS 38776.

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YOUTH

4B-THE SEA COAST ECHO—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1997

Bay Catholic News

By Leanne LaFrance and
Brittany Peterson
Sixth graders at BCE

This article is about November and December activities at Bay Catholic Elementary. On Friday, Nov. 21 we had Field Day. Field Day is a day full of outdoor activities for all grades, such as ring toss, obstacle course and sack races.

The reason for Field Day is for competition so students try to be the best they can be. Ribbons are given to recognize those who have won in an event. We also have Spirit Awards.

There are three of them given to the top three classes who have shown the most spirit by cheering their classmates. Ms. Tusa's sixth grade got third, Ms. Luttrell's fifth grade got second, and Ms. Suffern's fourth grade got first, which means that they keep the trophy until the next Field Day.

After Field Day the sixth grade planned a puppet show. The hand puppet show was Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Everyone had a part, from Goldilocks to prop people. From asking around the school, everyone enjoyed it.

We also had Book Fair. Book Fair is when the librarian has a bunch of scholastic books on display to buy. The reason we have Book Fair is to encourage reading. One night after the students previewed the books, the PTO sponsored a pizza party so that parents could mingle with other parents and students and then browse through the Book Fair.

The sixth graders sold drinks and desserts at the party and raised about \$200 for the endowment fund.

dowment fund.

After the Book Fair, the school prepared for Thanksgiving. What are we thankful for? That is a question you may have asked yourself over the Thanksgiving holidays. At BCE we are very thankful for our wonderful cafeteria staff, our custodians and all the people who volunteer to make our school a better place. So thank you!

On Dec. 6, 12 very smart students sent to St. Stanislaus to show how smart they are. The competition they went to is called the A.C.E. competition. In case you are wondering, that is the Academic Competition for Excellence.

Students from across the state came to compete in grades five through seven. Unfortunately we had no winners, but to us they are all winners.

We had a very special visitor here at Bay Catholic. Do you know who? Not Santa Claus, but Saint Nick. He came and gave candy canes to the whole school. We want to thank Father Theriault for portraying the saint who began the tradition of gift giving at Christmas when he gave gold coins to a poor man's daughters for their dowry.

We also had a Christmas play, which is the finale of our school's Christmas season. The play was a bunch of traditions such as Gabriel, the angel, talking to Mary, decorating of the Christmas tree and Jesus' birth.

The sixth graders were the characters of the play from Mary all the way down to the sheep, donkey and cow.



Mock trial at Hancock High

Several eighth grade classes at Hancock Jr./Sr. High School recently participated in a mock trial to enhance their knowledge of the judicial system. The trial, held in the school library, pitted Ms. Tibb's language arts class against Mr. Byrd's and Ms. Purvis' history classes. The language arts class believed that a First Amendment right was denied when the history classes attempted to ban a book they were reading. Ms. McKnight's students acted as the jury.



SSC December Students of the Month

St. Stanislaus December Students of the Month are, top row from left, senior Jeremy Clark, junior Paul Ladner and sophomore Neil Norton; bottom row, freshman Hunter Dawkins, eighth grader Brian Butler and seventh grader Chris Griffith.

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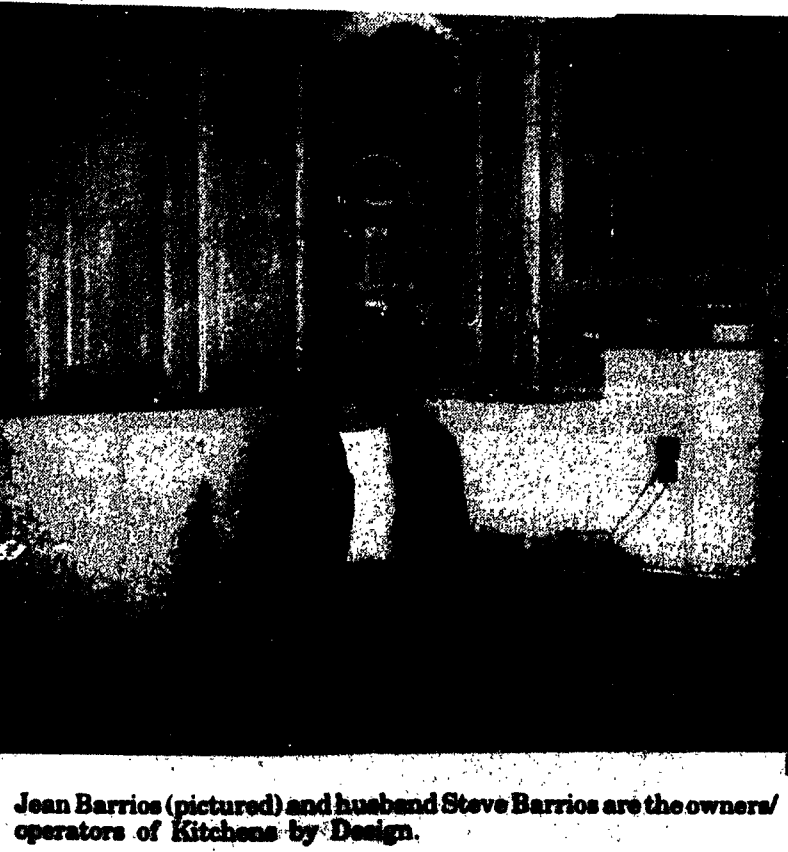
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Kitchens by Design is a new business which opened August 4th of this year. Although the showroom is new, the owners, Steve and Jean Barrios, have been designing and remodeling kitchens and baths for 15 years. As a boy growing up on the bayou, Steve learned woodworking from an elderly neighbor who built his own boats. Steve's cherished memories of that neighbor and skills he learned laid a natural foundation for his cabinet business. Steve no longer builds cabinets, but he drew upon that experience to select well-built cabinet lines for resale in the showroom. Steve and Jean are committed to serving you with quality cabinets and countertops, and great service. They believe good service is a precious commodity, and therefore, treat each kitchen as if it were their own. They believe the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".

Visit Steve and Jean at Kitchens by Design in the Pine Tree Plaza, 790B Hwy 43 So. in Picayune or call 601-798-1242.



Jean Barrios (pictured) and husband Steve Barrios are the owners/operators of Kitchens by Design.

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TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT

New fees begin Jan. 1 at Gulf Islands

Beginning Jan. 1, new fees go into effect at the Davis Bayou unit of Gulf Islands National Seashore. Through the National Fee Demonstration program, recently passed by Congress, the Seashore will be authorized to collect, temporarily, funds to help defray costs for maintenance projects and educational programs.

Located in Ocean Springs, the 400-acre collection of picnic

areas, fishing piers, a 50-site campground and nature trails receive about one million visitors each year.

According to Superintendent Jerry Eubanks, monies collected will go specifically to projects serving the public.

Congress has instructed that monies are to be spent on improving or maintaining campgrounds and facilities, interpretive activities and exhibits, visitor safety and protection,

resource protection, roads, trails, visitor services and facilities.

Possible projects in the Seashore's Mississippi District include the refurbishment of Fort Massachusetts on West Ship Island and refurbishment

of Davis Bayou's main nature trail and boat ramp.

Eubanks says, "Before spending monies, proposed projects must be approved by both the regional office in Atlanta and the National Park Service headquarters office in Washington, D.C."

Beginning Jan. 1, use of the Davis Bayou boat launch will be \$3 per use. Non-registered campers can also use the Davis Bayou campground sewage dump facilities for \$5 per use. Previously, a camper not staying in the Davis Bayou campground had to pay a \$25 yearly permit.

Three of Davis Bayou's popular picnic pavilions will be available for reservations beginning in 1998. For groups of up to 99 people, the fee to reserve pavilion #1, #2 or #3 will be \$25 per use.

For 100 people or more, each pavilion can be reserved for \$100 per use. When not reserved, all pavilions are available on a first come-first serve basis. Pavilion #3 and #5 are available without reservations any day of the week.

Eubanks believes the pavilion reservation system will be popular with families and organizations planning parties and reunions at Davis Bayou.

"Before the pavilions were free, but it was a race to claim a shelter. Some folks came at sunrise or even stayed in the campground overnight to get a picnic shelter for later that day."

Starting later in the year, jon

boat tours return to Davis Bayou for a fee of \$5 per person. Fees collected from jon boat passengers will help defray the costs of this popular, but labor-intensive program.

The National Park Service's Fee Demonstration program includes 100 national park sites across the country. Before Congress passed the enabling legislation, all funds collected within National Parks (including campground fees and entrance fees) were sent directly to the U.S. Treasury general fund.

In 1998, unlike in years past, the participating parks will keep 80 percent of funds raised from fees. The remaining 20 percent of fees will be disbursed for various uses to include providing assistance to National Park sites unable to collect fees.

The Fee Demonstration program ends for all parks Sept. 30.

New Year starts off big at the Coast Coliseum

When the New Year rings in Jan. 1, it signals the start of what promises to be one of the most exciting years in Coliseum history if the first concert of the year, Elton John, is any indication.

"It's definitely a good feeling to start off the year with a sold-out concert in the first month," said Coliseum executive director Bill Holmes. "Looking down the road from the Elton John concert I can see the momentum continuing throughout the year with shows like the Champions on Ice with Olympic gold medalists and world champions like Dorothy Hamill, Nancy Kerrigan, Oksana Baiul, Brian Boitano and others, the Bolshoi Ballet, the circus and possibly a new sport, coming to the facility. We're working on some pretty exciting deals that I believe the public will be delighted to see."

The following is a look at the first two months of 1998:

January

- 1-3, Name Brands Clothing Sale
- 2, Seawolves vs Chesapeake
- 8-10, MS/LA Nurserymen's Assn. Convention
- 14, Seawolves vs Pensacola
- 19-20, Ferris Bros. Annual
- 21, Krewe of Dionysus Mardi Gras Ball
- 17, Ocean Springs Elks Mardi Gras Ball
- 21, Elton John in Concert (sold out)
- 23-25, Episcopal Church of MS Conference
- 24, Krewe of Neptune Mardi Gras Ball
- 27, Seawolves vs Pee Dee
- 28, Royal Lipizzaner Stallions Show
- 28-30, AM Soc. Naval Engineers Conference
- 30, Catholic Diocese of Biloxi

- Convocation Meeting
- 31, Les Cavaliers Mardi Gras Ball
- 31, Krewe of Nereids Mardi Gras Ball

February

- 1, Seawolves vs New Orleans
- 3, Champions on Ice
- 4, Merchants Company Food Show
- 5-8, SE Dist. Alliance, Health, PE, Rec. & Dance Conference
- 6, Seawolves vs New Orleans
- 7, Seawolves vs Baton Rouge
- 10, Seawolves vs Birmingham Bulls
- 10, Hancock Bank Economic Symposium
- 13, Seawolves vs Ice Gators
- 14, Seawolves vs Pee Dee
- 14, Krewe of Harlequin Mardi Gras Ball
- 17, Sea Wolves vs Baton Rouge
- 20-21, Miss. Building Material Dealers Convention Trade Show
- 21, Krewe of Revelers Mardi Gras Ball
- 23, Gulf Coast Carnival Association Coronation Ball
- 27-28, National Beta Club Conference

Public Ice Skating at the ArenaRink:

- Friday, Jan. 1, after game, 10:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 3, 1, 3:30, 6 and 8:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Jan. 4, 1, 3:30 and 6 p.m.

- Friday, Jan. 9, 7 and 9:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 10, 1, 3:30, 6 and 8:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Jan. 11, 1, 3:30 and 6 p.m. (Skate with Seawolves 3:30 p.m. session only)
- Sunday, Jan. 25, 1, 3:30 and 6 p.m.

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IV	MR. MAGOO PG
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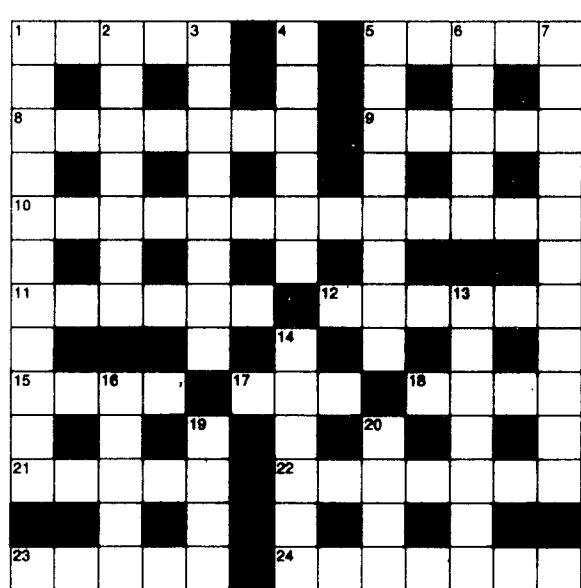
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- 5. Stunted bush
- 8. Wind instrument
- 9. Adult male
- 10. Disobedience
- 11. Made
- 12. Substance abuses
- 15. 500
- 17. Birthed
- 18. Wading bird
- 21. Voluble
- 22. Turkish viceroy
- 23. Dutch city
- 24. Water flea

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Struggling
- 2. Flight simulator
- 3. Pullover
- 4. Walks
- 5. Provençal verses
- 6. Ernest French historian
- 7. Absolute minimum
- 13. One who resides on peninsula in southwestern Europe
- 14. Fouled, as in basketball
- 16. Fix a program
- 19. English park
- 20. Pile

SOLUTIONS ACROSS

- 1. Fates
- 5. Scrub
- 8. Ocarina
- 9. Senior
- 10. Noncompliance
- 11. Earned
- 12. Habits
- 15. Indy
- 17. Had
- 18. Heron
- 21. Gabby
- 22. Khedive
- 23. Hague
- 24. Daphnia

SOLUTIONS DOWN

- 1. Floundering
- 2. Trainer
- 3. Slipover
- 4. Tramps
- 5. Sestinas
- 6. Renan
- 7. Bare essence
- 13. Iberian
- 14. Hacked
- 16. Debug
- 19. Hyde
- 20. Heap

C/080001

The "WORD" for the Week

Dennis J. Prutow, Box 303, Sterling, KS 67579

The word became flesh

Christmas is the greatest story ever told. Why? Christ was no ordinary man. He was God in human form. The Bible describes His coming like this: "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14-15).

WEDDINGS



Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Young
Young-Joly

Mitzi Marilyn Joly of Bay St. Louis and Melvin Alfred Young, also of Bay St. Louis, were united in marriage November 15, 1997 in an afternoon ceremony in BaySide Baptist Church with Allan Graves officiating.

The bride is a daughter of Earnestine and W. F. Odom Jr. of Waveland.

The groom's parents are Sandy and Jo Young of Lakeshore and Florida.

The bride was given in marriage by her brother, Greg Odom. For the occasion the bride chose a white satin gown featuring lace, pearls and a veil. She carried a bouquet of royal-blue roses, white carnations and baby's breath interspersed with pearls.

Maid of honor was Brigitte Bass, and bridesmaid was Shannon Thomas.

Trisha Fountain was flower girl, and Steven Stalter was ring bearer.

Best man was Troy Coltay. Ushers were Aude Severson and Greg Bryant.

A reception followed the ceremony at the Community Center in Bay St. Louis.

The couple will reside in Bay St. Louis.



Mr. and Mrs. Julius Kretzer

Kretzer-Burkett

Ashley Dawn Burkett and Julius Bryant Kretzer were wed April 23 at a garden gazebo on Grand Cayman Island.

The Rev. John Jefferson performed the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Winston Leroy Burkett of Mobile. She is the granddaughter of the late Leroy Burkett and the late Etta Burkett, both of whom lived in Mobile.

Parents of the bridegroom are Julius and Jeannette Kretzer of Mobile and James and Dorothy Hoskins of Diamondhead. He is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Bryant, who lived in Lumberton, and the late Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Kretzer, who lived in New York.

The wedding ceremony and celebration were held in a gazebo situated on the shores of the Caribbean, shaded by palm trees and surrounded by tropical flowers.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a formal wedding gown of white satin with clusters of rosettes as accents on the sleeves and a satin ribbon-edged neckline. An open V-back led to another cluster of rosettes and bows, which adorned the semi-cathedral-length train. The bride's fingertip veil was embellished with silk rosettes and bridal beads. She carried a cascading bouquet of bridal white roses, purple orchids, white wisteria blossoms, English ivy garlands and a spray of pearls, designed by her aunt, Patricia Jimerson of Mobile.

The bride chose her sister, Tammy Burkett Vice of Mobile, as matron of honor.

The bride's nieces, Allison Paige Vice and Morgan Elizabeth Vice, both of Mobile, served as flower girls.

The bridegroom chose his father as best man.

The bride was graduated from the University of South Alabama with a bachelor's degree in leisure services. She is employed as a travel consultant for Magellan Cruise & Travel.

The groom is employed by Blockbuster Music. He is a 1983 graduate of St. Stanislaus.

The couple enjoyed a wedding cruise along the western Caribbean and now live in Mobile.

According to the apostle John, the Word is the Second Person of the Trinity. John says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the word was God" (John 1:1). Beyond doubt, this Word was and is God. But this Word also existed alongside of God. Here we have both God the Father and God the Son. And although God the Son "existed in the form of God," He was also "made in the likeness of men" (Philippians 2:6-7).

How could this be? The virgin Mary asked the same question. Here is the answer she received. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).

Finally, when Christ was born, a heavenly chorus of angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2:14). It is the chorus we should all join the celebrate Jesus Christ, God in human form.

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AWMKWFW OQW YDNEWM.

JHLX DZW: IKIOWWZ

This week's clue: Y equals 1

I have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke 2:10 97-52

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Macedonia Baptist
400 Morris St. Waveland

Morning Star Baptist
Sycamore & Watts
Bay St. Louis 466-4849
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721 Herlity St. Waveland

Old Spanish Trail Baptist
5078 Hwy 90 W. 467-4881
Riverside Baptist
6191 Epsy Dr. 452-7684
Shiloh Baptist
16327 Hwy 603 Klin 255-1118

Shoreline Park Baptist
Waveland-Kin Cutoff Rd. Bay St. Louis
Victory Baptist
Hwy 603 Klin 255-1353

CATHOLIC
Annunciation Catholic
Klin 255-1800
Our Lady of the Gulf
228 S. Beach Blvd. Bay St. Louis 467-6509

St. Ann Catholic
Clermont Harbor 467-4746
St. Clare Catholic
236 S. Beach Blvd. Waveland 467-9275

St. John's Catholic
Lakeshore Rd. Lakeshore 467-4746
St. Joseph Catholic
Hwy 604 Pearlinton 533-7968

St. Matthew the Apostle
27074 St. Matthew Church Rd.
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St. Rose de Lima
301 S. Necaise Bay St. Louis 467-7347

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Church of Christ
Bay St. Louis 467-9645

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Bay St. Louis 467-0380

EPISCOPAL
Christ Episcopal
912 S. Beach Blvd. Bay St. Louis 467-7757

St. Thomas Episcopal
5303 Diamondhead Cr. Diamondhead 255-9213

Trinity Episcopal
Church St. Pass Christian

LUTHERAN
Grace Lutheran Church - ELCA
19221 Pineville Rd. Long Beach 864-4248

Lutheran Church of the Pines
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Diamondhead United Methodist
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First United Methodist
526 E. Second St. Pass Christian
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African Methodist Episcopal
18223-3rd of 7th Ave. Pearlinton 533-9076

Holmes Chapel United Methodist
Hwy 804 Pearlinton
Main Street United Methodist
182 Main St. Bay St. Louis 467-3178

Pearlinton United Methodist
5210 Lewis Ave. Pearlinton 863-7716

Pray Without Ceasing

The Bible tells us to be joyful always, to pray at all times, and to be thankful in all circumstances. Adhering to this on a continuous basis may seem difficult, however, all things are possible with Christ and prayer at all times is key. Prayer is communicating with God, and prayer is like having a faithful friend at our side twenty-four hours a day. Since our conscious and sub-conscious minds recognize this, we therefore are in constant communication with our loving heavenly Father. Recognizing that God is always with us, will help us to live a better life and doing God's will can be a prayer in and of itself. The Bible tells us today about everything. Therefore, talking, thanking and praising God for all of the little details of our busy day is to pray unceasingly. Once we accept how much God loves us and realize that He will never leave us, then we should always try to be joyful and thankful.

Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life with Christ Jesus.
Good News Bible 1 Thessalonians 5:16, 17, 18

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Pearlington Community Center
Pearlington 533-5527

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Church of the Good Shepherd
Espy Avenue at Pineville Road
Pass Christian 452-9318

Dominion Christian Fellowship
819 Central Avenue
Bay St. Louis 467-6140

River of Life Family Worship Center
9113 Kin-Delisle Rd.
Pass Christian 255-2097

Power House of Deliverance
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Bay St. Louis 466-3841

Word of Faith Christian Fellowship
1399 Old Spanish Trail
Bay St. Louis 467-4488

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First United Pentecostal
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Diamondhead 863-5928

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91 Livestock

FOR SALE: TWO 1/2 breed Boar weath-
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'94 Nissan Sentra \$177.75
'95 Ford Ranger \$197.63
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P/U. New paint, recent rebuilt 302 V-8.
Great looking, great running, \$1,500 firm.
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146 Rooms For Rent

PRIVATE ROOM, entrance, bath.
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147 Apt. For Rent

BAY ST. LOUIS EFFICIENCY APT.
\$295/month, \$295/deposit. Real nice,
newly remodeled. 452-7192.

HAY

Big Round Bales of
Hay For Sale
255-3082

147 Apt. For Rent

GULF GROVE APARTMENTS - 1, 2 and
3 bedrooms. \$100 deposit, ask about our
2 bedroom special. Corner of Hwy. 90 &
Waveland Ave. Waveland. 467-3122.

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SIT. Unique 2 bedroom floor plan, pool,
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appointments available after hours and
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SIGNATURE LAKE APARTMENTS. One
bedroom, starting at \$360; Two bedroom
starting at \$395; Three bedroom at \$495.
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lease. Starting at \$149.00 wkly.
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vate yard, pet-free environment.
\$475/month, water included, deposit re-
quired. 467-5449.

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central heat/air. 255-1356.

148 Mobile Homes For Rent

3BR/1BA, WASH/DRY, CENT. a/c &
heat, microwave, part. furnished. 5 mi-
nutes from Port Bienville. \$450/month,
\$275/deposit. 467-7023.

TWO & THREE BEDROOMS. Partially
furnished. Laundromat. Cable available.
Pet-free environment! Close to Wellman.
Monthly/weekly. Pearlinton, MS.
601-533-7001.

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peted, good location in Waveland.
\$350/mo. dep. required.
(504)286-3819/leave message on
recorder.

149 Mobile Homes For Sale

1994, 16x80, 3/2, vaulted ceilings, Island
kitchen, w/refrigerator, dishwasher &
stove. Huge master bath, more, \$27,000.
Will help arrange financing. 255-9306.

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149 Mobile Homes For Sale

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HOMES: Best Prices on the Coast. Easy
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ance Agency, 467-4607 or 467-1152.

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rooms. Low monthly. 888-206-3600.

LIKE NEW DOUBLEWIDE PRICED to
sell. 228-832-8528.

TAKE OVER PAYMENTS! 16x80 3 bed-
rooms. 601-206-3600.

YOU CAN STOP LOOKING!
\$4,000/down with owner financing. You
can have 1 acre with a newly remodeled
and set-up 2 bedroom, 1 bath plus swim-
ming pool for \$386.86/month. 586-0261
or 883-7691 pager.

150 Unfurn. Houses For Rent

2 BEDROOM BRICK HOME, close to
beach, cent. H/air, attached garage,
fenced yard, \$450/mo. Key Properties,
467-0600.

3 BR/1 BA, CLOSE TO BEACH. 414 Ne-
caise St., Waveland. \$450/mo.,
\$450/damage deposit. 1-504-863-5863.

4 BEDROOM HOME IN LAKESHORE.
Central h/air, \$475/mo, references. Key
Properties, 467-0600.

BRAND-NEW 3/2 LUXURY HOMES for
rent in the Kapalama Cove development,
\$885. Other homes for rent from \$750.
Call Century 21 of Diamondhead,
228-255-3550, open 7 days a week.

DIAMONDHEAD: 3 BR/2 BA, liv-din, sun-
room, kitchen appliances, carpet w/
storage. Lease. 255-4775.

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Ashman Mollere Realty Incorporated.
467-5454.

RAISED WATERFRONT, 2BR/1BA, fire-
place, central air/heat, dock/boat ramp,
washer/dryer hook-ups. Pet-free/smoke-
free environment. \$450/mo.,
\$300/deposit, lease/references required.
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SINGLE HOUSE: 3 BEDROOM, 1 bath at
6138 Walnut, Pearlinton, MS. \$550
monthly + deposit. (601)533-7979 or
(504)392-4126. Pet-free environment.

SMALL COTTAGE FOR RENT: Nice
neighborhood, 1 BR w/sleeping loft. Sm.
cute, furry pet OK, w/non-refundable pet
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151 Furn. Houses For Rent

1 BR FURNISHED COTTAGE near Ca-
sino magic overlooking inground pool,
boat dock available. \$450/month,
\$300/deposit. 467-5628.

152 Mobile Home Sites

TRAILER SPACES AVAILABLE! Ideal
Trailer Park, Ruella St., in Bay St. Louis.
Call 467-4594 or 467-3264.

153 Real Estate Wanted

WANTED TO PURCHASE: FIXER-
UPPER, or vacant lot near beach in BSL
or Waveland. Call Ed, 463-9491/leave
message.

156 Lots/Acreage

9 TO 16 ACRE TRACTS, 12 MILES East
of Poycaine on paved road. No mobile
homes. Starting at \$23,000, \$1,000 down,
\$264 mo. 467-6348.

158 Commercial Property

2 BUILDINGS RECENTLY REMOD-
ELED: 1-1,500 SF; 1-1,000 SF. Across
from Depot. Ideal for artist or antiques.
228-452-3198 or 850-438-7178.

COAST PLAZA under construction. Leas-
ing 900 to 1500 sq. units. Corner McLaurin
Ave. & Hwy 90, near Waveland-Bay St.
Louis line. Ideal location for your office, re-
tail or service business. 228-466-3333.

COMMERCIAL BUILDING with adjoin-
ing efficiency apartment. Water is in-
cluded. \$600/month, \$300/deposit. 100
"D" Blaize Ave., B.S.L. 467-9661 or
467-3935.

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BUSINESS LOCATION. 1,000 sq. ft. w/
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ATED, CENTRALLY LOCATED in Bay
St. Louis. 467-6169.

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Hairworks. Private entrance available.
Call Jan 467-0104.

159 Houses For Sale

FIXER-UPPER: 3 BR/1 BA, storage shed,
lg. corner lot. Front section of Bayside
Park. No owner financing. \$17,500.
467-5558.

GOV'T FORECLOSED homes from pen-
nies on \$1. Delinquent Tax. Rep's. Your
area. Toll Free 1-800-218-9000 Ext.
H-3930

159 Houses For Sale

2 BR/1 BA, BIG LIVING, kitchen & dining
area. Needs TLC. In Bayside Park.
\$35,000, no owner financing. 466-0124.

161 Condo Rent/Sale

VERY NICE 2 BR/2.5 BA., indoor heated
pool, beach, casino, sm. pets ok. \$800
plus deposit. 228-875-6220.

Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ROBERT LEE RADER
NO. 87-0629
Letters Testamentary having been granted on the
10th day of December, 1997, by the Chancery Court of
Hancock County, Mississippi, to the undersigned upon
the Estate of Robert Lee Rader, deceased, notice is
hereby given to all persons having claims against said
estate to present the same to the Clerk of said Court for
probate and registered according to law within ninety
(90) days from date of first publication of this notice, or
they will be forever barred.
This 12 day of December, 1997
Jewel M. Rader
Administratrix

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Bay St. Louis City Council will conduct a public
hearing on Tuesday, January 6, 1998, in order to deter-
mine if the following described property should be de-
clared a menace to the public's health, safety and
welfare:
Wesley McArthur — property located at 131 Felicity
Street, described as Lots 34 and 35, First Ward, Bay St.
Louis, Hancock County, Mississippi, parcel
#144N-0-19-228.
The public hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the City
Hall Annex, 111 Court Street. All interested parties are
invited to attend.
ANDREA L. LEE
CLERK OF COUNCIL
12-21, 12-28-97, 1-4-98

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